

Jordanian diplomat heads for Kuwait

AMMAN (AP) — A senior Jordanian diplomat left for Kuwait Saturday, the first such visit since the two countries fell out in 1990 over Iraq's invasion of the emirate, a foreign ministry spokesman said. Ahmed Mbeidin said Mashhour Zeben, a high-ranking foreign ministry official, was scheduled to arrive in Kuwait city Saturday on a four-day visit. Mr. Zeben's mission is to inspect the Jordanian embassy, closed since 1990, and meet with Kuwaiti officials. Mr. Mbeidin declined to comment on what Mr. Zeben will discuss in Kuwait. But there was speculation that he will seek to initiate a reconciliation with the emirate. King Hussein said in an interview with the Qatari news agency last Sunday that he was determined to mend fences with the Gulf Arabs, who over the years contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to aid Jordan's economy. Relations with Kuwait soured because of the Kingdom's perceived tilt towards Iraq after it invaded the emirate. Jordan refused to join the U.S.-led military coalition that eventually drove the Iraqi out of Kuwait in February 1991. Kuwait threw out 320,000 Jordanians and ordered Jordanian diplomats out of the country.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

AMMAN - ADEN

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ROYAL JORDANIAN
YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Volume 18 Number 5705

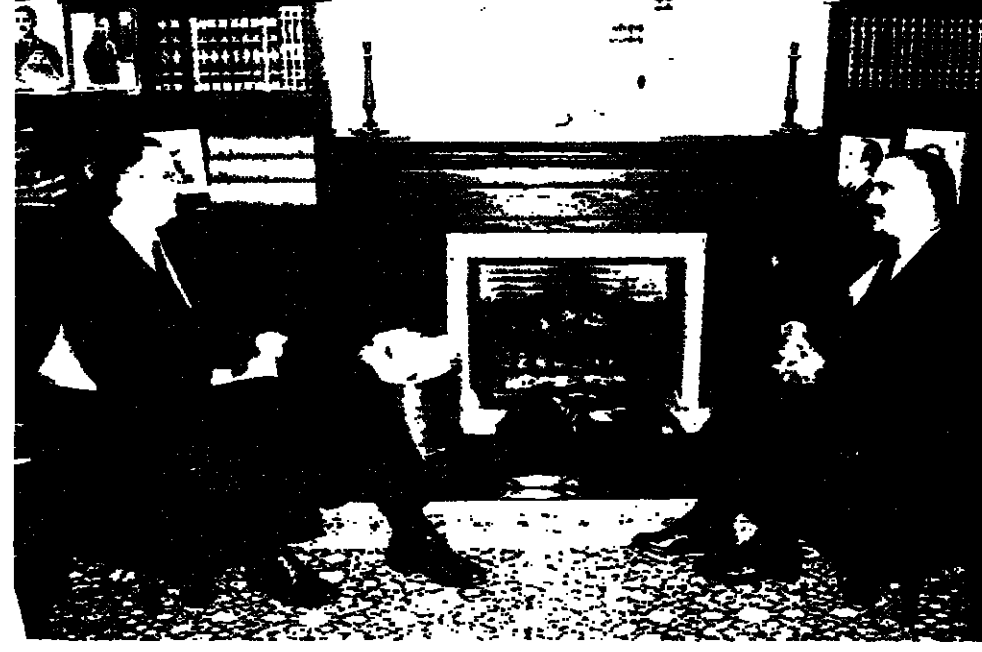
AMMAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1994, RABI' ALAWAL 26, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Regent receives visiting UNDP administrator

Development should be linked directly to human resources

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Saturday that comprehensive development can be best achieved through the implementation of projects with clearly defined population and humanitarian objectives. Such a development should be linked directly to human resources because it is man which is primarily targeted by any development scheme, the Regent said at a meeting at the Royal Court with James Gustave Speth, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) administrator and an accompanying delegation currently visiting Jordan. Underlining the important role played by the United Nations towards attaining comprehensive development in the Third World, the Regent said U.N. agencies were bound to achieve that goal as long as they coordinate their efforts at the international level. Mr. Speth expressed UNDP's appreciation of Jordan's development efforts pointing out the Regent's active role in international fora that address population and development activities. The UNDP, Mr. Speth said, will continue to support Jordan's development efforts by all possible means. Mr. Speth earlier Saturday met Minister of Planning Hisham Al Khatib and reviewed difficulties facing Jordan like shortage of water, poverty and unemployment as well as other challenges. The two officials also discussed UNDP's programme to the Kingdom to help it overcome these difficulties. Mr. Speth noted with appreciation Jordan's achievements in education, health and social development, in particular the Kingdom's comprehensive development programmes. In an interview with Jordan Television, Mr. Speth said, "We have had a UNDP programme in Jordan for many years, but I am a new administrator and I have come to learn about the programme. To learn how we can be of help to this wonderful and sophisticated country to learn what types of initiatives we can take to further sustainable and human-centred development in Jordan."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday receives United Nations Development Programme Administrator James Gustave Speth at the Royal Court (Petra photo)

OIC urges Muslim states to attend Cairo conference

DUBAI (Agencies) — The 51-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) said on Saturday that Muslim states must take an active part in the U.N. population conference in Cairo to make sure its recommendations conform with Islamic values. In Tehran, the head of Iran's delegation to the forum said Muslim countries should not boycott it but should attend in order to influence the final document. The conference is due to start on Monday with some 146 countries expected to attend. Its draft document has been attacked by Muslim and Catholic groups who say it promotes abortion, homosexuality and sex outside marriage. The OIC considers that it is necessary for member countries to press forcefully for the imposing of our Islamic positions and preventing the approval of any document which goes against the teachings of the Koran," said a statement sent to Reuters by the Jeddah-based OIC. "Behind the diplomatic formulas can be seen the arrogant claims of the liberal thinking that wiped out communism and is now preparing to impose itself on the great majority of mankind as the only correct path to achieve progress and happiness." The OIC said the draft's recommendations, if put into practice, would strip U.N. member states' political, economic and educational programmes of any religious or moral content. The head of Iran's delegation to the conference, cleric Mohammad Ali Tashkiri, told Tehran radio on Saturday that Muslim states should not boycott the conference. Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Iraq and Sudan have decided not to attend. "We do not agree with boycotting the conference. We want all Islamic countries to take part in it... and see that religious and moral values are represented in the resolution," he said. Hardline Iranian newspapers have condemned the conference as anti-Islamic and called on the government to boycott it. "The (draft) proposal calls for sexual equality among men and women. This sounds fine on the surface but it really means that if a man can have several women then a woman too can have several men," Kar-Va-Kargar newspaper said on Friday.

Fresh from Damascus summit, Hariri reshuffles cabinet

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has reshuffled his cabinet after lengthy summit talks between Syria and Lebanon, the presidential palace announced Saturday. The shakeup brought no major changes in the policies of Mr. Hariri's half-Christian, half-Muslim cabinet formed in October 1992 to rebuild Lebanon after the 1975-90 civil war. The main loser was Interior Minister Bishara Merhej, who has been at odds with the premier. The reshuffle was announced after President Elias Hrawi, Mr. Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri returned from a day-long summit talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad and senior aides in Damascus Friday. Syria is the undisputed power in Lebanon. Sources close to Mr. Hariri, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the reshuffle was primarily aimed at harmonising the cabinet and improving its performance after intensified criticism from Mr. Hariri's opponents. A statement from Mr. Hariri's press office said that Mr. Merhej, a Greek Orthodox and pro-Syrian leftist, was removed as interior minister and appointed state minister without portfolio. Mr. Merhej, 49, was replaced by Deputy Prime Minister Michel Murr, 52, another Greek Orthodox. Mr. Murr, a close Hariri ally, retains his other position. Mr. Merhej has been scrapping with Mr. Hariri over the handling of domestic affairs, including the thorny issue of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, or Party of God. Mr. Hariri objected to Mr. Merhej allowing the Shiite Muslim fundamentalists, who oppose Middle East peace talks and Mr. Hariri, to stage protests in Beirut. In one demonstration last September, troops shot dead nine Hizbollah activists. Mr. Merhej told the leftist As Safir daily he will consult with friends and allies before deciding whether or not to stay in the cabinet. In another move, state minister without portfolio Shahe Barsoumian, 40, an Armenian Christian, was named social affairs minister. That post had been held by Elie Hobeika, 39, a Maronite Catholic and former militia leader, who retains his other portfolio as minister of water and hydraulic resources. In May, Mr. Hariri tried to oust Merhej and Information Minister Michel Samaha — who was not involved in Saturday's reshuffle — but was unable to change his cabinet because of opposition from Mr. Hariri. The premier went on strike for a week, paralysing the government. He went back to work after visiting Damascus. Mr. Hariri, a self-made billionaire tycoon, has been credited with stabilising the Lebanese currency and improving security conditions as well as the nation's war-shattered infrastructure. But he has failed to harness runaway inflation and soaring living costs. Mr. Assad's spokesman, Joubran Korieh, said the Syrian and Lebanese leaders agreed during Friday's eight-hour meeting in Damascus to maintain a united position in peace talks with Israel. They also agreed to stick to the land-for-peace principle set out in Madrid in 1991 at the outset of the Middle East peace process, Mr. Korieh said. Mr. Assad and Mr. Hrawi regularly meet in Damascus to multi-over the peace talks with Israel and bilateral relations, but Friday's session was particularly long. The Lebanese media have said that Beirut and Damascus feel they must coordinate their position since the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Jordan signed accords with Israel over the last year. Syria and Lebanon are now the only Arab states on Israel's border still technically at war with the Jewish state. Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Jordan heading towards convertible dinar — Nabulsi

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's monetary policies are now steadily heading towards the transformation of the dinar into a convertible currency, benefiting trade exchanges, according to Central Bank Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi. But Dr. Nabulsi said in a working paper he presented to a meeting in Tunis recently that such a step can be no means give free conversion power to capital, something which can only be achieved at an advanced stage when certain conditions have been met. The paper, presented to an annual meeting of the Council of Central Bank Governors of the Arab World, said capital will be totally free to convert once the country has been able to control financial deficits. He noted that until that stage has been reached certain aspects of capital exchange can be freed if that policy proves feasible like allowing free movement of funds from and into the occupied West Bank with a view to benefiting from the investment momentum expected there. The positive aspects of a freely convertible dinar, Dr. Nabulsi said, can help raise the efficiency of services provided by the local financial sectors, enabling local institutions to diversify their activities abroad. Such move would also enable institutions to adopt new administrative and technological skills and would enable residents in the country to keep diversified assets escaping possible monetary upheavals, he added. A convertible dinar would enable Jordan to have easy access to international financial markets and would enable capital to flow into the Jordanian market, according to Dr. Nabulsi. Referring to Jordan's obligations towards the International Monetary Fund, (IMF), Dr. Nabulsi said honouring of article eight of the agreement with the IMF can by no means affect the country's request for rescheduling foreign debts in the future. On the contrary, he said, that would have its positive effect as it would help free current expenses from constraints, and later help liberate capital, something which would crown current national efforts towards economic reform. Dr. Nabulsi said that the IMF requires that all restrictions affecting wages and commodity prices be removed and that the country adopt an integrated taxation system and also stabilise the local banking system. Article 8, Dr. Nabulsi added, demands that Jordan develop new financial instruments and wise monetary and financial policies designed to reduce the margin of difference between the local and foreign financial markets.

Thirty 'repentant' Muslim militants freed

CAIRO (AFP) — Thirty suspected Muslim militants who "renounced extremist thought" were freed from Egyptian jails on Saturday, police said. The release brings to 90 the number of suspected militants released since last May. None of those freed Saturday were involved in murder or attempted murder, but were "accused of joining armed militant groups," police said. They did not reveal to which groups the released men belonged. The Egyptian media, which is largely government-controlled, last month broadcast seminars organised by the interior ministry during which several "repentant" extremists denounced Muslim militant groups and urged colleagues to abandon their beliefs. Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali said he was "ready to free all militants who announce their repentance."

Russia urges Chechen president to resign

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia called on Saturday on the president of rebel Chechnya to resign to avert civil war and urged free parliamentary elections in its troubled southern region, the official ITAR-TASS news agency said. A Russian government statement said armed conflict had pushed the breakaway region to the brink of civil war and urged its president, Dzhokhar Dudayev, to step down. Russia has openly supported a Chechen opposition grouping led by Umar Avturkhanov, which had announced plans to topple Gen. Dudayev. "The Russian government appeals to the Chechen people to show restraint and not to give in to any provocation by Dudayev and his entourage," said the statement, published by Tass. "Dudayev must resign peacefully," it said. "It is clear that attempts to concentrate power in one man's hands has led to the escalation in tension and violence. Therefore free parliamentary elections must be held and a new government must be formed." Russian and Chechen news agencies on Friday published conflicting accounts of fighting between Chechen government forces and opposition groups and reported several people killed. But there was no independent confirmation. Moscow, after a series of hijacks by ethnic Chechens, last month accused Gen. Dudayev of turning the republic into a hideaway for criminals and said it would not tolerate this any further. Gen. Dudayev, a former Soviet air-force general, declared his tiny north Caucasus republic independent from Russia in 1991. The "interior minister" of Chechnya said Saturday that armed units loyal to the president had taken about 100 opposition prisoners and seized several armoured vehicles in clashes. Ayub Satuyev said in future "there would be no more massive attacks" by the opposition, after Friday's fighting, even if it could "continue with localised attacks," the interfax news agency reported. The opposition — one of whose factions, the Provisional Council, is openly backed by Russia — is demanding the resignation of Gen. Dudayev.

U.N. team makes fresh inspection of Iraq's sites

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — A team of U.N. inspectors returned Saturday from scouting fresh Iraqi sites that may be brought under long-term monitoring to ensure the Iraqis do not try to revive an aborted biological weapons programme. "We looked at declared and undeclared sites, we looked at sites that have been inspected previously and some that have not been inspected previously," said David Huxsoll, the American leader of an 8-member U.N. team of biological weapons experts. "The information that we found will be useful to the United Nations in making additional decisions" on the monitoring process, he told reporters at the Bahrain-based regional base of the inspectors. Mr. Huxsoll's is the 10th team to visit Iraq to track down secret biological weapons programmes, destroy what they find and prepare for a long-term monitoring process. In all, more than 90 U.N. teams of inspectors have been in Iraq since the Gulf war on trips related to the biological as well as nuclear and chemical weapons fields and that of long-range missiles. Biological weapons employ disease-spreading toxins and deadly micro-organisms that could be obtained from makers of medical products such as vaccines, and developed at medical facilities. Mr. Huxsoll pointed out that the developing or producing biological weapons "is a complicated and complex process." Other U.N. teams in the biological field have scanned Iraq's oil industry as well as its medical colleges and research laboratories and even its six national beer breweries for the purpose. All these facilities will be brought under the long-term monitoring umbrella. As far as inspectors have been able to tell, Iraq's biological weapons programme before its defeat in the 1991 Gulf war never passed the research stage.

Israel, Hizbollah duel in South Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Iranian-backed guerrillas and Israel's militia allies clashed in dusk-to-dawn artillery duels in South Lebanon after a deadly guerrilla ambush, security sources reported Saturday. Two rockets exploded about 100 metres from the Israeli border near the Lebanese town of Rneish, the sources said. SLA gunners and Israeli tanks hit back with an intermittent bombardment of the Shiite villages of Kafra and Yater. There are also Hizbollah strongholds and the guerrillas retaliated with mortar fire and Katyushas. The sources said no other casualties were reported on either side from the sporadic night-long exchanges, sometimes fought in the glare of parachute flares. In Haifa on Friday, the army commander of Israel's northern region warned Syria against starting a new war, saying it would lose heavily. "Syria is holding peace negotiations but at the same time continues to arm itself, modernise its army and develop its military power," General Yitzhak Mordechai told reporters in the northern town of Haifa. "Syria would be making a very serious error if it started a war against Israel because it would lose the conflict and the price would be terrible," said Gen. Mordechai.

Carlos lawyers want all charges dropped

PARIS (AFP) — Carlos the Jackal's lawyers said Saturday they would call for all charges against their client to be dropped when he goes before court authorities Monday. Mourad Oussedik, representing Carlos along with Jacques Verges, said the two lawyers had also filed a suit for "kidnapping," "false imprisonment" and "denial of individual liberties" on behalf of their client. The suit was filed Friday because of the manner of his arrest in Sudan and transfer to France, Mr. Oussedik said. Carlos was arrested by Sudanese authorities in Khartoum on Aug. 13 and handed over to French police who flew him to Paris. He has since been held in the Sante prison in the centre of Paris. He is to appear Monday before examining magistrate Judge Jean-Louis Brugiere. The lawyers also released Saturday details of Carlos's version of his arrest. Carlos says that after an operation on his testicles for a varicocele — a condition affecting the spermatic cord in the scrotum — in a private hospital in Khartoum on Aug. 13, the Sudanese officials guarding him took him to a villa outside the centre of the Sudanese capital where he spent the night and the following day. In the night of Aug. 14 to 15 he was attacked by his own guards who handcuffed him and covered his head with a hood, he said. A military doctor gave him an injection which knocked him out, and he was then taken to Khartoum airport on a stretcher, he charged. At the airport, Carlos saw from under his hood an "executive type" aircraft and some Europeans who said nothing. He was then put in a body bag and tied up. On arrival at the military airport of Villacoublay in France he was thrown into a van and transported to the French counter-espionage headquarters, the DST, the lawyers' statement said. France's interior ministry has declined to state the circumstances under which the terrorist was arrested and extradited to France.

Prosecution provides evidence linking defendants to bombings

AMMAN (AP) — Prosecutors Saturday presented evidence that homemade explosives found at the homes of a group of Muslim extremists match those used in a wave of bombings of porn cinemas and liquor stores. Prosecution witness Lt. Ali Neom, 30, told a military court that primitive bombs were part of efforts to cleanse the society of values that contravene Islamic teachings. The 25 militants, who may not be named under court regulations, face the death penalty on charges that they plotted to destabilise the Kingdom by violent means and set up a purist Islamic state. During Saturday's one-hour session, Mr. Neom said the Jan. 26 Rivoli bomb and the Feb. 1 Salwa bomb, as well as a third one found in a liquor shop in the northwestern village of Safout earlier this year, were all made of acetone peroxide, which explodes from prolonged exposure to sunlight. In addition to charges that the militants were behind the bombing wave, they are also accused of intruding to sabotage the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process.

U.N. envoy fails to bring Afghan leaders to talks

ISLAMABAD (R) — Six weeks of efforts by United Nations envoy on Afghanistan Mahmoud Mestiri have failed to bring warring Afghan Mujahadeen groups to talks.

"The special mission very much regrets the failure to hold the joint preliminary meeting," a statement issued by the United Nations special mission on Afghanistan said late on Friday night.

"The commitment to peace is not yet sufficiently strong and widespread to overcome inevitable obstacles," the statement said.

But it also said the mission was determined to continue efforts for peace in war-torn Afghanistan.

The mission will, however, not be discouraged, nor will it be deterred from pursuing the course of peace in Afghanistan.

The failure of the mission was attributed to the refusal by President Burhanuddin Rabbani's alliance to talk to the National Islamic Movement of northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the statement said.

Gen. Dostum is allied to Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in a Supreme Coordination Council in a war to topple the president.

"However, despite numerous meetings, compromise proposals and formulas, it was in the end not possible to hold this joint preliminary meeting because of the total refusal by the side opposed to the Supreme Coordination Council to include the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan in such a meeting," the statement said.

Mr. Mestiri, a former Tunisian foreign minister, had a U.N. General Assembly mandate to facilitate the process of rapprochement and reconstruction in Afghanistan through dialogue and negotiations.

It said during six weeks, Mr. Mestiri held intensive and in-depth consultations with the Afghan leadership and reached a conclusion that a joint preliminary meeting of the warring parties was needed to further the peace process.

The Afghan people have suffered enough from the hostilities in their country and their overwhelming desire for peace should not be frustrated any longer, the statement said.

It said the next phase of the peace efforts would be taken in hand in a few weeks time.

The present round of fighting between the forces backing and opposing Mr. Rabbani began on January 1.

About 11,500 people have been killed in the conflict since Mujahadeen guerrillas took over from a collapsed communist government in April 1992.



Palestinian girls sing the Palestinian national Saturday at the Ramallah High School (see story page 12) (AFP photo)

Yemen Socialists criticise leaders over civil war

By Assem Abdul Mohsen Reuter

SANAA — A report before a meeting of the Yemen Socialist Party on Saturday condemned a separatist attempt by some of its leaders which was crushed in a brief civil war.

The meeting was called to assess the report, which covers the party's future after the disastrous attempt to recreate the former South Yemen during Yemen's two-month civil war.

About 170 YSP members held a procedural session on Thursday, their first post-war meeting in Sanaa to decide on a future course of action and possibly elect a new leadership.

"The war resulted in nothing but destruction, the wasting of the country's resources and the creation of more grudges," the report by a YSP provisional leadership said.

"The declaration of secession was a historical mistake which cannot be justified and is rejected as an attempt to tear Yemen apart again," the report made available to Reuters said in an indirect criticism of YSP leader Ali Salem Al Beidh.

The defeated party has been trying to define its post-war future after the civil war in which Mr. Beidh declared a separatist state in the south.

Mr. Beidh fled Yemen in the final days of the war, when northern forces of President Ali Abdullah Saleh took Aden, declared the capital of the break-away state.

The report said the declaration of separation was "an expression of political failure, national narrow-mindedness."

"Therefore, a condemnation of the military solution should be coupled by condemning all the isolationist tactics which excluded the political solution and contributed to the pushing of the country into the inferno of the devastating war."

The report said it was the responsibility of all political leaders whether inside or outside the government to work together in the aftermath of the war and secession.

The formerly-Marxist YSP is widely expected to remain in opposition when a new Yemen government is formed.

It added that "political peaceful dialogue is the only way to ensure a prosperous future for the country."

The YSP, Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress and the Islamic Party of Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar formed a coalition government in Yemen, created in 1990 by a merger of Mr. Saleh's North Yemen and Mr. Beidh's South Yemen.

Differences over power-sharing erupted into civil war on May 4. The report blamed YSP leaders for making it possible for their northern opponents to unleash the war.

"The YSP leadership cannot be absolved of responsibility thanks to their wrong tactics which facilitated the rushing towards a military solution... some tactics were even in contrast to the party's ideology and policy," the report said.

'Libya barred Carlos'

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya turned away international terrorist Carlos the Jackal on two occasions and refused to have any links with him, Foreign Minister Omar Al Muntasser told AFP Saturday.

"We had no links with Carlos. He came here twice and we sent him away both times" during the last three years, Mr. Muntasser said when asked about the possibility of Carlos referring to Libya in his trial.

Carlos, a Venezuelan whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez, was arrested in the Sudanese capital Khartoum on Aug. 13 and taken to France.

Mr. Muntasser also said he "deplored" France's attitude in its dealings with Libya and said Paris was "under pressure" from Washington.

The minister said Tripoli was cooperating fully with French examining magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere in his investigation of the bombing of a French UTA plane over Niger in 1989 which killed 170 people, and had invited him to the country to question Libyan suspects.

But a planned visit by the judge to Libya, several months ago fell through, the last minute, Tripoli decided that "his arrival in an armed frigate, colonial style" was "unacceptable," Mr. Muntasser said.

The United Nations imposed air traffic and arms embargos on Libya in April 1992 at the request of the United States, Britain and France, after Tripoli refused to hand over two Libyans suspected of involvement in a bomb attack on a U.S. airliner.

The Pan Am plane exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, killing 270 people.

Mr. Muntasser said Tripoli was going to "put to work" support of all the international organisations while Washington largely ignores such as the Arab League, Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement, and it in the next U.N. general assembly.

Ghali in Paris for Mideast talks

PARIS (R) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met a top aide in Paris on Saturday to discuss a wider role for the United Nations in helping Palestinian self-rule, the U.N. said.

Terje Roed Larsen, U.N. special coordinator in the occupied territories, briefed Mr. Boutros-Ghali on talks in Washington on Thursday and Friday to prepare a meeting of donor nations to be chaired by the World Bank in Paris on Sept. 7-9.

The two met "to discuss an enhanced role for the United Nations in the development process in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," a U.N. statement said.

Palestinian self-rule began in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho in May under



Boutros Ghali the historic Israeli-PLO deal. Mr. Boutros-Ghali was in Paris en route to Cairo where he is to open the U.N. population conference on Monday.

population conference on Monday.

The statement said Dr. Boutros-Ghali and Mr. Larsen, a Norwegian who helped broker the accord on limited Palestinian autonomy, also discussed possible U.N. technical help for administering a Palestinian police force.

In Washington on Friday, State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly said the Paris meeting was expected to decide what sums donors would grant.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an agreement on Monday giving Palestinians in the West Bank control over five spheres of civilian government previously run by Israel, the second phase of a year-old peace deal.

Finns return home after kidnap ordeal

HELSINKI (R) — Two Finnish tourists who were kidnapped and held for three weeks by Kurdish guerrillas returned home on Saturday saying they had been well treated by their captors.

The pair, Marke Hotakainen and Tuomo Pollari, were detained in southeastern Turkey by the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). They were freed on Tuesday in Kangali, a village in the Tunceli province.

"According to them (the PKK), we were their guests. But I was there against my will," Mr. Hotakainen told a news conference at the airport outside Helsinki.

"They were so friendly to us that one couldn't be afraid," Mr. Pollari said, according to the Finnish news agency (STT).

The two men said they had moved from camp to camp during the three weeks with the guerrillas.

Turkish officials had initially suggested the two, both in their 20s and their way to Australia when they were kidnapped, went off willingly with PKK guerrillas.

Finnish authorities, however, insisted the pair had been abducted in an operation reminiscent of previous PKK kidnappings of foreign tourists.

The Finns were abducted by PKK forces, who said the pair were in violation of a PKK order that all travellers to the largely Kurdish region first obtain a "visa."

Arab NGOs shun controversy at Cairo population conference

By Samia Nakhouli Reuter

CAIRO — Arab delegates have shied away from taking controversial stands in recommendations prepared for submission to the U.N. population conference opening on Monday.

Delegates attending pre-conference meetings of Arab non-governmental organisations (NGOs) dropped or rejected thorny topics in their paper to the international conference of the population and development.

Religion, traditions and rigid governments at home weighed heavily on the thinking of Arabs attending the meetings and influenced a paper agreed upon Friday night, participants said.

Some of the stands that the Arab NGO paper does take are opposed to liberal planks of the controversial draft document on population that is the central topic of the conference.

The Arab NGOs came out opposing the draft's section on sexual freedom for adolescents outside marriage, saying it encourages "corruption, immorality and pervertedness to the Arab generations."

"It is blasphemous to give children free sex and have parents approve it. This is a tragedy," said Egyptian gynaecologist Aziz Khattab.

"Youths who choose a

filthy path, unacceptable religiously and legally, should not be provided with any care," said another Egyptian delegate.

Giving adolescents confidentiality in family planning was also rejected "so that unmarried girls could not have access to contraceptives."

Panels, attended by 120 delegates from 13 Arab countries, highlighted the cultural gap among Arabs themselves. Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine were more moderate than Egypt and Sudan.

Egyptian delegate Dalia Mamdouh said: "you keep saying girls should not have done this, they should not have sinned, but many unmarried girls are having sex and many are getting pregnant."

"We should not look at them with disdain, we should not punish them and leave them die, we should provide them with a solution."

Delegates from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain, whose countries run on strict religious lines and where the sharia (Islamic law) governs peoples' lives, worried more about the status of women.

Mounira Fakhri of Bahrain, one of the most liberal Gulf states, said women in the Gulf were living in the past.

Arab women hope conference will break sexuality taboos

By Mona Salem Agence France Presse

CAIRO — Arab women's groups, irked by hostility in some Islamic quarters to next week's U.N. population conference here, are hoping the gathering will help shatter what they say is a taboo on sexuality in the Arab World.

"Abortion, extra-marital relations, rape — they all exist in our societies even if the law does not recognise them," according to Rashida Al Tahri, a teacher from Morocco.

She was speaking following meetings here Thursday and Friday of delegates from around 50 Arab women's organisations ahead of Monday's conference opening.

"Islamic circles equate a better understanding of sexuality with an invitation to permissiveness," she said.

"But in our society such knowledge is necessary, especially as discussions of sexuality are taboo and our school curricula all but ignore it."

"Whether we like it or not, some of our young people have sexual relations before marriage. With a better understanding of their bodies

they can avoid unwanted pregnancies and illegitimate children who end up as orphans.

"In Morocco, women have a special need to be informed about sexuality and to have the right to abortion because they run the risk of going to prison if they have a child out of wedlock. Men assume no responsibility under the law."

Khawla Mattar of Bahrain was sharply critical of "the ambivalence in Arab society" on sexual questions.

"We must avoid the ostrich approach," she insisted.

"Modesty is a myth."

"It does no good to ignore reality. The fact that sexuality is a taboo is responsible for many social ills, such as rape within the family," according to Ms. Mattar, who represents the Arab Maternity and Childhood Council.

"In Gulf countries, with their closed societies, sexual frustration and a lack of knowledge mean that our young people focus on sex as soon as they leave the country."

But she added: "With greater courage and open-mindedness we can create more balanced citizens."

Egyptian journalist Amina

Shafiq likewise criticised traditional beliefs that attach "shame" to a young woman's body.

"When a girl reaches the age of puberty, her mother warns her against telling her father she has her period."

"Some teachers in our schools refuse to teach lessons dealing with genitalia, even though sexual health is part of one's overall health."

Ms. Shafiq insisted that "the debate about sexuality is distorted. They (Islamic critics of the conference) would do better to try to help couples who, lacking in resources and education, have sexual relations in front of their children in the family's one and only room."

Anna Derar, representing Sudan's Al Ahfad (The Grandchildren) association, said one of the most sinister consequences of sexual ignorance was the practice of female excision, widespread in northern Sudan, in which a young girl has her clitoris removed and her vagina sewed up.

"Such practices will only disappear with a long process of socio-economic development," she argued.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fundamentalists staged public killing of "collaborators"

ALGIERS (AFP) — Islamic fundamentalists have killed two young men they accused of collaborating with the security forces, slitting their throats as a crowd of villagers looked on, a letter to the Le Matin daily claimed Saturday.

The letter writer, who preferred to remain anonymous, said the killing took place before evening prayers in a Sunday outside the Larbaa mosque in the village of Bougara. There was no independent corroboration of the killing. The letter writer said the two men, were bound gagged and had their eyes covered as they were paraded in front of a crowd and condemned as "collaborators with the security forces and the oppressors."

The men's captors accused one man of providing information to the security forces and the other of being involved in torturing his fundamentalist "brothers." Another man then ordered one of the captives to kneel. When he refused, he knocked the man to the ground, the letter claimed. "The man held him down with his knees, pulled back his chin and slit his throat with a knife," it said. The second captive, a young blond man, then lay down on the tarmac and was killed the same way. The two bodies were left lying on the road until early the next morning, the letter said.

Indian man burns himself to death in jobs protest

NEW DELHI (R) — A 27-year-old man died on Saturday after setting himself on fire in protest against a job quota system that favours the underprivileged in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, the Press Trust of India said.

Sunil Saxena, 27, died in a Delhi hospital after suffering burns over 95 per cent of his body from Friday's self-immolation protest, the news agency reported. At least 10 people have died in the past week, including at least six on Friday, in demonstrations calling for an end to the job policy and for the establishment of a separate state in the Himalayan foothills, it said. More than 200 people have been injured in clashes with police that prompted the state government to order an indefinite curfew throughout the region. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao held an emergency meeting with Internal Security Minister Rajesh Pilot on Saturday to discuss the situation in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 L'Unité
17:30 News in French
18:45 Fault Pas Rever
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:30 FBI: Unsold Stories
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Step By Step
21:00 Quotidian Leap
22:00 News in English
22:30 Snowy River

PEAYER TIMES

06:47 Fajr
07:07 (Sunrise) Duha
12:35 Dhuhur
16:18 Asr
19:43 Maghrib
20:23 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swellbush, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
612785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622306
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.
628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assumption International Church Tel. 625236.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195.
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 19/31
Agaba 25/39
Dera'a 18/25
Jordan Valley 25/38

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 29, Agaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 42 per cent, Agaba 26 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul	898140
Dr. Jamal Ja'ari	794601
Dr. Hisham Kan'an	790286
Dr. Wasil Al Masi	675485
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Natroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salan pharmacy	636750
Shamsan pharmacy	644945
Yaacoub pharmacy	637660
Natroukh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
REID:	
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi	348743
Alquds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Tareq Hijawi	985445
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	6428116
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617401
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	787111
Amman Municipality	
Telephone Information	121
Telephone Repairs	773111
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs	661101
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200
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ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Time	From	To
06:00	Amman	Agaba (RJ)
06:30	Amman	Beirut (RJ)
06:45	Amman	Frankfurt (RJ)
06:55	Amman	Rome (RJ)
12:00	Amman	Vienna (RJ)
12:30	Amman	New York (RJ)
12:40	Amman	Istanbul (RJ)
12:45	Amman	Casablanca (RJ)
13:00	Amman	Amman (RJ)
20:30	Amman	Muscat (add) (RJ)
20:45	Amman	Agaba (RJ)
21:05	Amman	Riyadh (RJ)
21:30	Amman	Jeddah (RJ)
21:35	Amman	Doha (add) (RJ)
21:45	Amman	Damascus (RJ)
22:05	Amman	Geneva (RJ)
22:15	Amman	New Delhi (RJ)
22:45	Amman	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
22:45	Amman	Dubai, Bangkok (RJ)
22:50	Amman	Bangkok (RJ)
23:15	Amman	Damascus (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)		
05:15	Amman	Anatolia (TK)
07:30	Amman	Rome (AZ)
14:30	Amman	Doha, Muscat (GF)
16:05	Amman	Moscow (SU)
19:45	Amman	Larnaca (CY)
22:00	Amman	Doha (add) (GF)

Home News

UDD urges land benefit low-income

Germany to sponsor W

LECTURE

Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists

Establishment of oil paintings by Iraqi artists

Exhibition of photographs on nature and environment at the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature

National Association Complex, Sharmat

Exhibition of household items at the Am

Bosnian Serbs threaten to blockade Muslim enclaves

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — Cut off by his former patrons in Serbia, the leader of Bosnia's Serbs threatened to retaliate by blocking vital aid to Muslim enclaves.

In another ominous sign for Muslims, U.N. officials said Friday that Serb rebels appear to be in the final stages of a campaign to force the remaining non-Serbs out of parts of northern and northeastern Bosnia.

The blockade threat by Radovan Karadzic reflected his leadership's desperation a month after Serbia cut support in an attempt to have crippling U.N. trade sanctions lifted.

"Even a bird will not be able to fly across until the world forces Yugoslavia to lift its economic sanctions against us," Mr. Karadzic told an assembly of Bosnian Serbs late Thursday.

Serbia and Montenegro are the only remaining republics in Yugoslavia, the supplies from Serbia were the lifeline that sustained the rebel Serbs during their 29-month-long war.

The war broke out in 1992 when Bosnia's minority Serbs revolted against a vote by Muslims and Bosnian Croats to secede from Yugoslavia. Serbia's president, Slobodan Milosevic, has rejected international demands for monitors on the border between Bosnia and Serbia, but the embargo appears to be serious.

"No one in the world expected Yugoslavia to introduce... sanctions against us," Mr. Karadzic told the assembly of Bosnian Serbs in Pale, east of Sarajevo. He said this gave Bosnian Serbs the same right to impose sanctions against others.

He also told the international community it "can start drawing up a new peace plan."

It was the Bosnian Serbs' rejection of the latest Bos-

nian peace plan that touched off Serbia's embargo. Serbia hopes to end the U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia by backing the Bosnian Serbs into a corner and forcing them to accept the plan.

Bosnian Serbs have refused the plan because it would require them to relinquish about one-third of the 70 per cent of Bosnia they seized during the war. The remaining 51 per cent would go to a Muslim-Croat federation, which has accepted the proposal.

Bosnia's Muslim prime minister, Haris Silajdzic, said Mr. Karadzic's threat was "nothing new."

"He keeps threatening that," Mr. Silajdzic said. "It's never-ending. And the U.N. keeps sending delegations to talk to them, even while he is openly threatening Bosnia. It is obvious that the international community has no answer to open genocide."

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees — the main agency delivering aid to Muslim enclaves in Bosnian Serb-held areas — did not shrug off the threat.

"UNHCR makes no bones about it: The enclaves are on an umbilical cord," said spokesman Peter Kessler in Sarajevo. "The Serbs control what goes in and out."

The most vulnerable enclaves are Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde in eastern Bosnia. The Bosnian government maintains that because of previous blockades, deliveries are down to 98 grammes of food a day per person in Srebrenica.

But Mr. Kessler said there wasn't any immediate threat of starvation. He said 80 per cent of planned U.N. deliveries got through in July, and a similar amount in August.

He also reiterated U.N. concern about continuing Serb expulsions of Muslims from northern Bosnia. As many as 600 people crossed the front line between Serb-



General Andre Soubrrier (right) of France, UNPROFOR commander of the Sarajevo region, escorts Vatican Ambassador to Bosnia Francesco Montaris (center) from his plane after his arrival in Sarajevo. Mr. Montaris is preparing the scheduled visit of Pope John Paul II (AFP photo)

held Bijeljina and government-controlled Tuzla early Friday, he said.

Some refugees said they were loaded into buses at the Bijeljina train station. Along the way, the local Serb commander, Vojislav Djurkovic, had buses with empty seats stop so more Muslims could be forced out of their homes to fill them, the refugees said.

Since July 17, about 1,700 Muslims had been forced from Bijeljina and nearby Janja, said Mr. Kessler. There were believed to be fewer than 1,000 left in the area, and more refugees were expected in Tuzla over the weekend.

Expulsions have increased since July, when Bosnian Serb leaders first rejected the latest peace plan.

About 200,000 people have been reported killed or missing in the war.

Also Friday, mediators Lord Owen of the European Community and Thorvald Stoltenberg of the United Nations said they would go to Sarajevo on Sunday to meet with Mr. Milosevic. They also planned to go to Montenegro and Croatia.

In Macedonia, another breakaway Yugoslav republic, one person was shot in the arm Friday on the tense border with Serbia, the third such incident in two weeks.

The shooting occurred near Tanusevci, 25 kilometres north of the Macedonian capital, Skopje. It was not clear who fired.

Meanwhile, a Vatican envoy planned to hold talks with Bosnian Serb leaders on Saturday to discuss security concerns over Pope John Paul's visit to Sarajevo next week.

But security issues still overshadow planning for the visit and many in the Bosnian capital fear the Pontiff may be forced to cancel at the last moment.

Orthodox Serbs have often accused the Pope of siding with Roman Catholic Croats in the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, U.N. aid officials warned of a humanitarian disaster if Mr. Karadzic carried out a threat to cut food and utility supplies to areas held by Muslim and Croat-backed government forces.

Mr. Karadzic has threatened to cut off gas, power, water and food to Muslim and Croat areas until Serbian-led Yugoslavia ends an embargo against his people.

"There would be zero

(supplies) and there would be hardship on all sides," said Mr. Kessler.

"In Bosnia, threats are a way of life but we hope these threats are not carried out."

Mr. Kessler said that the Bosnian Serbs could block more than 8,000 tonnes a month of relief supplies bound for Sarajevo and eastern Muslim enclaves by halting road convoys and stopping the relief airlift to the Bosnian capital.

Diplomats interpreted Mr. Karadzic's threat as a sign that the embargo was beginning to bite.

Major powers have asked Mr. Milosevic to accept international monitoring of his blockade in exchange for an easing of sanctions on rump Yugoslavia.

Asked about the possible deployment of foreign monitors on the Serbian-Bosnian border, Mr. Karadzic refrained from criticising Belgrade.

"This is strictly an internal issue for Yugoslavia. We have no intention to interfere. As far as we are concerned the embargo is being complied with, if it's any help for anybody," he told reporters late on Friday.

In northern Bosnia, international aid officials reported on Friday that Bosnian Serbs had driven several hundred Muslims from their homes in yet another wave of ethnic expulsions.

About 750 Muslims had to cross front lines northeast of Tuzla to reach safety in the Bosnian government-held area after they were expelled from the Bijeljina region, said a U.N. peacekeeping officer.

"They had been on the road for about 24 hours since being expelled from their homes and they had to walk the last eight kilometres. Some of the elderly had to be carried across on stretchers," said the officer, who asked not to be named.

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Tribal court banishes teens for robbery

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (R) — A tribal court sentenced two Alaska Indians Friday to at least a year of banishment on separate uninhabited islands for a brutal robbery, a tribal official said.

Adrian Guthrie and Simon Roberts, both 18, "will put out for 12 to 18 months," said Byron Skinna, a Tlingit Indian who was part of the 11-member court that deliberated for two days over the case.

The case drew international attention after a state judge in Everett, Washington, agreed to free them to face traditional native justice in their hometown of Klawock, Alaska, rather than go to prison.

Some tribal members say the court was set up without proper authority by Rudy James, a tribal member who negotiated their release by promising they would pay restitution and serve a traditional tribal sentence.

Others in the southeastern Alaskan village of 800 people say banishment has never been a traditional punishment for the Tlingit, Alaska's largest tribe with 20,000 members.

Jim Townsend, the Snohomish County prosecutor in the case, said Mr. James had consistently misled the court where the youths pleaded guilty to the August 1993 assault and robbery of pizza delivery man Tim Whittlesey.

The victim was beaten so badly with a baseball bat in the attack near Seattle that he lost his hearing in one ear and nearly died, prosecutors said. The youth Roberts and Guthrie, who testified before the tribal court that they were drunk at the time, got \$40 and a pizza.

Mr. Townsend, who sought sentence of three to five years in the case, is appealing the decision made by superior court Judge James Allendorfer, citing "reverse racism," referring to what he called special treatment given the two youths because of their ethnic heritage.

Mr. Skinna defended the ceremony-filled tribal court proceeding in Klawock, the only one in recent memory. He said the two youths will be sent out as early as Saturday to undisclosed islands, where they will be given tools and training and help building shelter for the winter and then monitored periodically.

"Their main task is to rehabilitate themselves by looking at their own soul and finding out where the good is... so they can be good people," he said.

Mr. Skinna said rehabilitation was impossible in jail, where the two youths spent a year awaiting sentencing.

Mr. Skinna also said Mr. Whittlesey, 25, who appeared at the hearing and has supported the experiment, will be given two parcels of Alaskan land and paid an undisclosed amount of cash in restitution.

Mr. Allendorfer has ordered Guthrie and Roberts to return to his court in March 1994 to determine whether they have been punished adequately.

Opponents of the agency accuse it of making unfair demands on fathers who already pay some maintenance, and not pursuing others who escape their responsibilities with enough vigour.

They say at least five people have committed suicide after it ordered them to make payments they could not afford.

Didi Rossi, a spokeswoman for the pressure group campaign against the Child Support Act, said Ms. Hepplewhite's decision to quit was "a great victory."

The agency, which British newspapers have accused of working more to save the government money in welfare than to help single mothers, has admitted teething problems.

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Hopes fade for survivors in coal tunnels

MANILA (AFP) — Hopes dimmed Saturday that additional survivors would be found more than five days after the Philippines' worst coal mine disaster, even as navy frogmen were sent to search flooded tunnels. A spokesman for military forces in the southern Philippines said that the death toll from the blast at the Malangas coal mine had risen to 93 with the discovery of one more body and the death of one of those injured in the explosion. But a spokeswoman for the state-run Philippine National Oil Co., which operates the mine, said that so far, 73 bodies have been extracted from the mine and only nine miners were still missing. However, she said that rescuers had seen the bodies of eight more people in the tunnel, although they have not been able to remove them yet. The explosion has been blamed on methane gas that leaked into the mine although it is still unclear what ignited the gas.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hopes fade for survivors in coal tunnels
MANILA (AFP) — Dimmed Saturday morning light found more than 100 survivors of a deadly coal mine disaster in the southern Philippines. The rescue operation was hampered by heavy rain and the discovery of one of the injured in the explosion.

French student raped by Indian policeman
NEW DELHI (AFP) — A French student was raped by an Indian policeman after she was kidnapped from a friend's house in the northern city of Chandigarh, police reported here.

U.S. voters abroad offered free courier service
WASHINGTON (AP) — Free courier service to help Americans abroad cast absentee election ballots in November was announced Friday. The service will be operated by DHL worldwide express, which has 1,500 offices throughout the world, and the Federated League of Americans Around the Globe (FLAG).

Italy opposes twin-track Europe option
ROME (AFP) — The Italian government said Saturday it would not accept a French and German proposal advocating a multi-track Europe, orbiting a core consisting of France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Policeman wounded while arresting skinheads
BONN (AFP) — A policeman suffered face wounds while arresting a group of five skinheads aged between 17 and 21 who were harassing passers-by and shouting "Heil Hitler" in their city centre overnight, police said Saturday.

Japan cuts illegal immigration
TOKYO (AFP) — The number of foreigners staying illegally in Japan has fallen after officials stepped up raids and the Japanese employment situation worsened, the Ministry said here Saturday.

Clinton promises aid for Irish reconciliation

EDGARTOWN, Mass (Agencies) — President Clinton has promised U.S. aid to promote peace in Northern Ireland but postponed any commitment on the amount until projects have been identified and it's clear whether a ceasefire will last.

Visiting Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said he was hopeful of "substantial funds" from the U.S. after meeting with Mr. Clinton at his vacation retreat to discuss ways of following up on the Irish Republican Army's ceasefire in Northern Ireland.

But while Mr. Clinton spoke of a U.S. "peace dividend" to promote reconciliation in Northern Ireland, he also mentioned U.S. budgetary restraints to Mr. Spring and said private as well as public aid should be considered, the White House said.

"We will help both politically and economically, but it's premature to put a dollar figure on it," White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said.

Mr. Clinton told reporters after the 45-minute meeting that the United States would "do whatever we can to help" bring peace to all groups in Northern Ireland.

The amount would have to be approved by Congress, which has already passed its appropriations bills for the year, so any decisions would have to be made next year, Mr. Spring said.

The United States already contributes \$20 million a year to the International Fund for Ireland. News reports have

ing his time while he waited to see if the violence had ceased, acknowledged officials were at the stage of "awaiting developments."

A key factor, he said, would be some signal from the loyalist community that they are prepared to commit to a ceasefire and "accept that the war in Belfast is over."

"Obviously violence is stopped on the Republican side," he said. "If we can get the violence to cease on the other side and a strong commitment to that, that presents us with an opportunity that has not been there in the past."

The IRA's ceasefire in its campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland took effect Thursday. But it was marred on the first day by the shooting of a Catholic man. The extremist group the Ulster Volunteer Force, which is battling to defend the province's British status, claimed responsibility for the death.

Mr. Spring said he and Mr. Clinton didn't discuss figures, but agreed a committee of the international fund for Ireland would look at what reconstruction projects were needed and report back to the president.

"I am indeed grateful for the assistance promised by President Clinton this morning," Mr. Spring said. "I would hope that substantial funds would be forthcoming."

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U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) shows Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring the property where the Clinton family has been vacationing on Martha's Vineyard, Mass. Mr. Spring travelled to Martha's Vineyard to brief President Clinton on the ceasefire in Northern Ireland (AFP photo)

said Clinton is considering raising that to up to \$200 million, although this could include a mix of public and private money leveraged by government loan guarantees or insurance.

Myers said Mr. Clinton also wanted to increase trade and investment with Northern Ireland.

The International Fund for Ireland was set up by the British and Irish governments in the 1980s to attract international aid for reconstruction in Northern Ireland.

Asked what else the United States could do to help promote peace, Mr. Spring

the decision of the Irish Republican Army to end its campaign of violence.

In an interview with BBC radio, Mr. Reynolds implied that the British government was also involved in talks with the extremist groups following the IRA announcement of a "cessation" of its campaign Wednesday.

The contacts are "ongoing," Mr. Reynolds said.

"They are going to continue because now that we have a decision to stop the guns on one side, we want to stop them on the other side," he said.

Loyalist extremists in the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) have killed more people in the past three years than the IRA, and late Thursday, less than 24 hours after the IRA began its ceasefire, the UVF shot dead a 33-year-old Catholic, John O'Hanlon, claiming he was linked to the Republican movement.

Mr. Reynolds said however that he was still "very consciously hopeful" that there would be a positive response from the loyalists.

"The contacts are still there and I think it's a question of convincing them that there hasn't been an underhand deal. And, indeed, that the principals of the Downing Street Declaration will still prevail at the end of the day," he said.

The declaration signed by London and Dublin in Downing Street last December set the ground for the present peace process by offering a place in talks to those that renounced violence.

"I have given the same attention to both sets of paramilitaries, and to the people and the connections that

U.N. postpones Security Council expansion

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A General Assembly committee Friday agreed the Security Council should be enlarged, but reached no decision on how to do this.

As a result, Germany and Japan, who both want a permanent seat on the 15-member body, will not achieve that goal for years to come.

The committee's report said that "while there was a convergence of views that the membership of the Security Council should be enlarged, there was also agreement that the scope and nature of such enlargement require further discussion."

The report, to be given to the General Assembly, will be accompanied by a resolution stating that the group would continue its work and submit another report before the 49th assembly session ends next September.

Diplomats do not expect any further serious meetings until at least November and no substantive proposals are likely to emerge until next summer, if then.

Actual ratification of any proposal is expected to take at least two years as it did the last time the Security Council was expanded in 1965.

Both Germany and Japan were excluded from U.N. membership when the world body was founded in 1945 on the ashes of World War II.

Permanent Security Council seats with veto power were awarded to the victorious powers — the Soviet Union (now Russia), the United States, Britain, France and China.

In addition to the five permanent members, the council has 10 non-permanent members rotating for two-year terms according to their regions.

The discussions do not only involve permanent membership for Germany and Japan but enlarging the council for developing nations and changing the nature of its operations.

U.S.-Cuba talks recess, possible agreement Sunday

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. and Cuba negotiators intend to meet again Sunday and American officials reported progress in negotiations to stop the exodus of thousands of refugees sailing towards Florida in rickety rafts.

American officials described the talks that began Thursday as making progress in reaching a deal on sharply increasing the number of U.S. visas for Cubans if Havana agrees to stop the flight of refugees.

The U.S. Coast Guard Friday plucked 1,270 Cubans out of the Florida straits and took them to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay on the western tip of Cuba. The number fell from about 1,900 Thursday.

After nearly eight hours of talks Friday, negotiators recessed until Sunday while Cuban envoys led by Ricardo Alarcon, a former foreign minister, studied U.S. proposals.

At issue is a U.S. offer to increase legal immigration to more than 20,000 Cubans a year in return for Havana stopping the exodus.

To date the United States has only allowed in about 2,700 people a year, while Cuba insists a 1982 agreement allowed for thousands more. Washington is also considering other measures to admit more Cubans.

A U.S. official said an agreement was "do-able" but that many details still needed to be worked out.

The spokesman for the U.S. delegation, David Johnson, told reporters the negotiations covered a "thorough, in-depth discussion to possible solutions to the continued uncontrolled outflow of Cubans and the U.S. proposals to replace that outflow with a standard, predictable, dependable legal migration programme."

The two sides also discussed the return of about 1,500 convicts now in U.S. jails who arrived in the 1980 Mariel boatlift and whom Washington wants Cuba to take back.

Cuba has denied it allowed prisoners to join the latest exodus. State Department Spokeswoman Christine Shelly said: "We received assurances that the Cuban authorities have not and would not knowingly permit dangerous criminals to be released for purposes of leaving the country."

The refugees — about 20,000 in August alone — are being taken to the U.S. navy base at Guantanamo Bay on the tip of Cuba where they are being detained, a reversal of U.S. policy which previously admitted all escaping Cubans.

The United States allocates more than 20,000 immigration visas annually to every country, including Cuba. But so far this year fewer than 3,000 Cubans met the visa requirements, which include having a close family member who is a U.S. citizen or having particular job skills.

So far Cuba has made no attempt to stop the flow. President Fidel Castro is hoping that the United States will reconsider its 32-year economic embargo.

Mr. Alarcon, a veteran foreign policy expert and international lawyer, claimed in a series of television interviews that the United States had encouraged the exodus by previously accepting Cubans escaping by sea but refusing to issue visas.

He also alleged that the economic situation, caused mainly by the embargo, was causing the flight and not political suppression.

So far the Clinton administration, partly because of pressure from the hardline Cuban-American national foundation in Miami, has kept that issue off the agenda.

President Clinton has also banned remittances to Cuba and travel by relatives and increased anti-Castro broadcasts.

In New York, demonstrators against the embargo are expected to march Saturday from the United Nations to the Cuban U.N. mission about 10 streets away, police said.

About 150 people demanding an end to the embargo demonstrated Friday morning. Several anti-Castro protesters opposed them and scuffles broke out. Police arrested two people.

Irish Protestant women demonstrate against IRA

BELFAST (R) — Women from Belfast's Protestant stronghold, pushing prams and clutching children, took to the streets to accuse the British government of selling them out to the IRA.

About 150 women and children marched from the Shankill Road area to a nearby Catholic neighbourhood on Friday night, but police using armoured vehicles as import roadblocks stopped them going further into Catholic areas.

The women vowed to carry on demonstrating until the government proved to them it had not made a secret deal with the Irish Republican Army.

"We think that concessions will come and we will not stand for it. We won't have a united Ireland," said Mary Douglas, who acted as unofficial spokeswoman for the marchers.

"We'll take to the streets, the men and all. We'll fight with them shoulder to shoulder. There will be civil war."

Northern Ireland's Protestants, who want the province to stay British, fear the government has struck a covert deal with the IRA that will lead to the fulfilment of the guerrilla group's main demand — transfer of the province to Ireland's control.

They are cynical about the IRA's ceasefire announcement this week and have threatened to use violence themselves to stay British.

The outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) claimed responsibility for killing a

Suharto positive over Timor dialogue — Mandela

JAKARTA (R) — Visiting South African President Nelson Mandela said on Saturday his Indonesian counterpart Suharto responded positively to his suggestion for a dialogue to resolve problems in troubled East Timor.

"I raised the issue of East Timor with President Suharto and he gave me a good hearing. My appeal for dialogue was received positively," he told a news conference at the end of his two-day private visit to Indonesia.

Mr. Mandela said he did not discuss details of the dialogue and declined to give more details of Mr. Suharto's response in their talks on the former Portuguese colony, which was annexed by Indonesia in 1976, one year after a bloody invasion.

The United Nations does not recognise Indonesian rule in the territory, about 2,000 kilometres east of Jakarta.

A dwindling band of guerrillas is still fighting for East Timor's independence from Indonesia, which recently re-



A resident of the predominantly Protestant Shankill Road area of Belfast argues with a policeman during a protest march after the IRA's historic ceasefire announcement (AFP photo)

Jordan Times

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscriptions and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

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When waiting is a virtue

FROM EASTERN Europe to Sweden, education and welfare programmes are facing strong challenges from economists and politicians who argue that it is no business for the state to be involved in dispensing welfare to the people. Nor, they say, can economic growth be achieved if the state continues to replace the "invisible hand" of the market.

The future is for the private sector, we hear all the time. The smaller the involvement of governments in the economy, the better chances it has of attaining higher levels of growth, thus producing better living conditions for the majority of the population.

Jordanian politicians and economists generally seem to be aware that liberalising the economy is the only way through which the Kingdom can cope with the economic challenges in the impending peace era. Unfortunately, though, the steps that are being taken in this direction are at best shy, at worst non-existent.

The government continues to be the largest employer. And its majority of government employees can hardly make ends meet after their salary increases over the years have failed to even match the rate of inflation. The purchasing power of these people continued to deteriorate as the cost of living increased. Many are now simply saying that they have had it.

As against this backdrop that one should assess the public discontent over the decision which the government had taken to increase school "contributions" — which are in fact fees because students are obliged to pay them — from about JD 3 to JD 5 a year.

The proposed increases might look insignificant to most of us, even to some students and their families, but they are a considerable source of revenue for the Ministry of Education considering that 1.4 million students are attending government schools this year. Many Jordanian families, on the other hand, were willing to resist the hikes simply because they were either not willing to pay, or it was beyond their means to do so.

The controversy that the government's decision sparked and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's intervention on Friday to rescind it should strengthen the need for a reevaluation of the whole economic system in the Kingdom.

Reforming the tax system is long overdue. It has been promised by many governments but the promise remains unfulfilled. As a result, people are paying the taxes and the treasury. While underpaid government employees end up paying a heavy price in terms of their low standards of living, many others are paying the taxes because the collection system is so anarchistic, so inefficient and so confused and confusing.

The Crown Prince's request from the government to further study its decision to increase school "contributions" was therefore timely and well received. Thus the onus is now on the government to come up with a convincing reform package that will address not only this issue but other related matters that continue to hinder the development of the country.

In the package teachers should find a solution to their pressing problems, mainly their low salaries which have rendered many of them unwilling to perform their duties of educating the future generations. Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh is on the right track to propose a 40 per cent increase in teaching allowances.

The government should take seriously this proposal and implement its efforts to reform the educational system to succeed. Underpaid and frustrated teachers cannot teach.

Mr. Rawabdeh is also right in saying society should shoulder some of the burden for the cost of education, as enshrined in the Constitution for every citizen. But an impoverished society cannot make such contribution. So only when living standards of Jordanians have improved can they be expected to shoulder their share in the educational, health and other services provided by the government.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Rai's daily Saturday backed Egypt's leadership to free the Middle East region from mass destruction weapons and its call on Israel to stop its nuclear programme. Israel is no more in need of these arsenals as it is seeking peace with its Arab neighbours, and as its security is now ensured, said the writer. The West, which is not averse to Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear weapons and nuclear North Korea over its nuclear programme, should now listen to Egypt's call on Israel to abandon its own nuclear programme so that all forms of tension in the Middle East can end, said Saleh Al Qallab. The West must listen to Cairo's call and must respond by calling on Israel to comply with the requirements of a permanent peace, added the writer. It is expected, said Mr. Qallab, that the Arab states will now support Egypt's idea and its call on Israel to help rid the region of any horrible weapons which can only escalate tension and encourage others to compete with the Jewish state's armament race.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said that Jordan should stand by its demands for equal share of the Jordan and Golan rivers water and must not listen to ideas about the division of sea water as an alternative to this right. The writer said that the proposed desalinisation of the Mediterranean Sea water with the help of German and Japanese firms should be accepted as secondary to the basic rights to the rivers' waters. Otherwise, and since the sea is under Israel's control, Jordan will remain under the mercy of the Jewish state for its water needs. Indeed, the emergence of this proposal while the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations continue, is regarded as a Western means of exerting pressure on Jordan.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Why Israel blocked the negotiations

JORDANIAN PUBLIC opinion was somehow led to become too optimistic and expect negotiations with Israel and recovery of Jordanian rights to be finalised in one or two rounds of negotiations. Now it is time to realise that the negotiations will take time, which should be measured by months rather than by weeks or rounds of talks. Speedy negotiations may not after all be in our best interests.

Some times we put our negotiators under pressure when we expect them to come back from each round of talks with concrete results. In a way, delay is a positive sign, because it indicates that the Jordanian negotiator is not ready to give up or accept less than the just demands already announced as a minimum. If the Jordanian negotiator wants to finish negotiations at any rate, he can simply accept what his Israeli counterpart offers, but such a settlement would take place only at our expense.

It is much better for our delegation to come back and report no sufficient progress being achieved than coming back with a bad agreement which does not give us what we want. If the Israeli delegation is clever in negotiation tactics, especially stalling and wasting time, our delegation should meet these tactics with patience and perseverance.

The party that shows impatience in arriving at an agreement is prone to give more concessions than necessary. Jordan is not in a hurry. We can wait forever. The passage of time does not hurt us as long as we don't sign a premature peace treaty or normalise our economic and political relations with Israel. The whole world is aware that Jordan did not only do its bit in the peace process, but went on extra miles. Any delay or complications will obviously be an Israeli responsibility.

It is Israel which should be eager to reach a peace treaty with Jordan, and accordingly has to pay the price for such a historical turning point. If Israel thought for a moment that it can get the treaty for free, or with minimum cost, it will not hesitate to try. The Israeli negotiator is not in the business of admitting the rights of others simply because they are legal, fair, and just, he negotiates to get the maximum Jordanian concessions in return for the minimum Israeli concessions. Such a selfish strategy can be resisted

and repelled only through unlimited patience. We should make it clear that there will be no peace treaty until we recover our rights in land, borders, water, security and refugees even if negotiations continue well into the 21st century.

Negotiations are not of course about Jordanian demands only. Israel also has its demands which start with normalisation and end with an anticipation of reciprocity. Our normalisation measures should be slowed down to fit the actual progress achieved on the table of negotiations.

In the field of normalisation, Jordan already made big steps in the desired direction. It more than proved its good intentions and demonstrated readiness to go for peace all the way without hesitation. But Jordan should not make one more step except when negotiations make real progress regarding land, borders, water, security and displaced Palestinians waiting in the camps. Our normalisation concessions are already ahead of the results of negotiations.

On the other hand, we should not put our negotiators under pressure to finalise negotiations too early and at any price. Jordanian concessions should be stopped. We should not act like the house owner who saw the thief running and followed him, but in his enthusiasm, did not only catch up with him but overtook him, leaving him behind.

There is a theory circulating in Amman that Israel is purposely blocking the negotiations at the level of experts because they are not flexible from its point of view. It prefers a summit meeting at the level of His Majesty the King and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to replay the game of Camp David, when Begin addressed Sadat saying: "Sir, you have the authority to make this extra concession, while I can't because I have an opposition and a parliament to worry about."

Camp David ended up by Sadat giving most of the concessions. Such a game will not work in the case of Jordan because the King will not act against the will of his people and Parliament, and will not accept less than 385 square kilometres of Jordanian occupied land.

M. KAHIL



In Japan's schools, World War II is no longer something to skip

By T.R.J. Reid

TOKYO — What do the Japanese teach their children about World War II?

A recent outbreak of war-related controversies here has demonstrated that Japanese feelings about this nation's role in the world war remain confused, conflicted and contentious.

Nearly half a century after the last bombs exploded, the Japanese are still engaged in explosive arguments about to whom and how much they ought to apologise.

In the Asian countries that Japan invaded, and in the West as well, it is often said that this lingering confusion is due in part to Japanese education. It has been conventional wisdom that Japanese history classes and textbooks skip World War II, offering vague explanations of Japan's motives and ignoring examples of Japanese brutality toward its perceived enemies.

But this view may be out of date. A Washington Post survey of the 12 textbooks most widely used in Japanese schools this year, plus various supplementary materials often used by teachers, indicates that textbooks have considerably increased their coverage, and their criticism, of Japan's role in World War II.

In 1989, the Education Ministry issued a new set of curriculum standards for history education; among other things, the standards call for increased attention to 20th century events and Japan's relations with other Asian countries. High school and college entrance exams now include many questions about World War II, giving students and teachers a major new incentive to focus on the war.

Accordingly, textbook publishers have responded. The current editions of major textbooks state that Japan waged a "war of aggression" as a "fascist state" allied with Italy and Germany. The books discuss Japan's use of poison gas and slave labour in Asia.

The textbooks now include information and

Japan's brutality toward its Asian neighbours. Every text surveyed discussed the Rape of Nanking, a 1937 massacre of more than 100,000 Chinese civilians that is perhaps the most notorious of the Japanese war crimes. Until about a decade ago, the massacre was not even mentioned in most Japanese schools.

None of the textbooks surveyed has much to say about the role of the late Emperor Hirohito in approving or steering the war effort. Even today, that question is too emotionally and politically charged to deal with.

The texts all note that Japan's government refused to surrender even when there was no hope of victory. "determined to... fight to the death on Japanese soil, whatever sacrifices this might mean for the people," as the sixth-grade text "New Social Studies" puts it. And yet the kamikaze suicide pilots are barely mentioned in textbooks here.

In the current crop of texts, the outline of World War II in Asia is close to what American students learn: Japan set out early in this century to conquer and colonise East Asia — not to "liberate" the Asians, as nationalists here maintained. The United States responded with economic sanctions, demanding that Japan withdraw from the Asian mainland. In response, Japan's government made a cold-blooded decision to attack the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbour but continued sham negotiations with Washington to make sure the raid would be a surprise.

While Americans consider it natural that textbooks become more theoretical and more analytic as the students get older, in Japan the opposite pedagogical style rules. The elementary and junior high history texts here pose many discussion questions and frequently ask pupils to consider how the war looked from the viewpoint of Japan's enemies. The high school texts, in contrast, are dry and factual.

Discussing Japan's mo-

tives for its attempted conquest of East Asia, for example, the high school text "Japanese History in Depth" says: "Japan claimed the goal was to liberate Asian from Western colonial rule... However, inside Asia, resistance grew against the so-called 'Great East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere,' Japan's effort to replace the Western powers with Japanese dominance."

But the elementary school text, "Social Studies, 6th Grade," makes the same point through questions to the student. In one chapter, the book discusses the "unequal treaties" that Western nations imposed on Japan and other Asian countries in the 19th century. Moving on to 20th century history, it says, "Japan itself imposed an unequal treaty on Korea in an attempt to gain a footing on the continent." In the margin of the page, an illustration shows a sixth-grade girl asking "Say — didn't we hear about 'unfair treaties' somewhere else a little earlier?"

The textbook "Junior High Social Studies" tells of Yu Gwan-sun, "the Korean Joan of Arc," and other Koreans who were tortured and killed for resisting Japanese control. "But few Japanese," it says, "made any attempt to understand the outlook and circumstances of the Korean people who sought freedom and independence."

The attack on Pearl Harbour on Dec. 7 (Dec. 8, Japan time), 1941, gets a passing mention in most texts. "Japan, which had been secretly preparing for war while continuing negotiations with the U.S., invaded the Malay Peninsula on Dec. 8, 1941, and also attacked the U.S. bases at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii," notes "Junior High Social Studies — History Section." "As a result, the whole world had become a battlefield, with the fascist countries of Germany, Italy and Japan pitted against the Allied Powers, the U.S., Britain, U.S.S.R., China and others."

Textbooks and supplementary materials used

in schools today discuss Japanese atrocities against Asian nations, explaining why the rest of Asia still feels anger and suspicion towards Japan. That may explain the angry reaction both in Japan and in East Asia this year when Japan's then justice minister declared that the Rape of Nanking was a "fiction." The texts surveyed all describe the 1937 massacre, with estimates of the dead ranging from 110,000 to 300,000. The books describe similar Japanese conduct in Manchuria and Korea.

Both Japanese and foreign commentators have noted for decades that many Japanese people see their country as the victim of World War II even though Japan started the war. For all the new focus on Japan's selfish motives and evil deeds, the current texts also provide material to feed the sense of victimisation.

All the texts surveyed devote considerable attention to American bombing raids on Japan, with photos and paintings and quotations from people who lived through the raids. The atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki get the most attention, with considerable discussion as to why the United States dropped the bombs.

Most texts cite the theory that President Harry Truman felt the bomb would shorten the war. But they don't stop there.

"Was the atomic bomb really necessary?" asks "Junior High Social Studies." "President Truman said that use of the atomic bomb saved the lives of tens of millions of American and Allied troops. And English scientists claimed that the dropping of the atomic bomb sacrificed... the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as pawns in post-war strategy towards the Soviet Union. Another theory holds that the bomb was dropped in order to justify... the \$2 billion spent in making the bomb."

The writer is Tokyo bureau chief for The Washington Post.

Protestant extremists may try to torpedo change

By Martin Cowley

Reuter

BELFAST — The Irish Republican Army's (IRA) unprecedented ceasefire takes Northern Ireland into uncharted peaceful waters, but bitter Protestant extremists may try to torpedo any change to their British status by killing and terrorising Catholics.

The two main Protestant gangs have pledged recently they would silence their guns if the Irish Republican Army did so.

But they are unlikely to stand by while the IRA seeks to make political capital out of a truce heartily welcomed by the Irish government, sources close to the groups say.

In the immediate aftermath of the IRA's ceasefire, which it said was a "complete cessation of military operations," an umbrella group for Protestant hardliners gave no hint it would follow suit.

"Is our constitution being tampered with or is it not?" said the combined Loyalist Military Command, grouping the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF). "What deals have been done?"

On Tuesday, the UFF, which is responsible for dozens of random killings in the past 12 months, said the IRA ceasefire was "a recipe for civil war."

Its sister organisation, the UVF, has said it will match the IRA ceasefire with one of its own. But few security officials believe it has the discipline to restrain its volunteers, who say they will keep the province British.

In the 12 months the two groups have outdone the IRA in killings as part of a sectarian strategy to cow Catholics and wreck peace talks.

The two groups are now far more likely to try to provoke the IRA into breaking its truce by killing leading nationalist spokes-

man or ordinary Catholics, say sources close to the groups.

Security sources fear the Protestants might even try a major attack on a target in the Irish Republic to harden anti-British attitudes there and drive a wedge between the Dublin and London governments, hitherto shoulder-to-shoulder in their peace plan.

Sources close to the UFF and UVF said the extremist Protestant leadership held a series of recent meetings to map out strategy if the IRA declared a ceasefire.

The IRA hopes that after halting a 25-year war on its security forces, the British government will publicly seek to persuade the 60-40 Protestant majority that it should not fear eventual union with the Catholic Irish Republic to the south.

Republican sources said British officials told senior Republicans in secret talks last year that London could envisage a day in perhaps 25 years when the province was no longer British.

The Republicans hope the IRA ceasefire will force the government to make similar pledges publicly in what would be a major move towards ending seven-decades of partition of the island.

Such a step, however tentative or diplomatically presented, would send shivers of fear through hardline Protestants whose only real allegiance is to the British crown — not necessarily to British governments.

Protestant extremists have felt increasingly isolated, misunderstood and threatened by the Anglo-Irish peace process and fear it masks a covert attempt to end their British status and make them Irish.

As the peace drums have beaten louder, so have the Protestant guns resounded in a series of attacks on innocent Catholics, killed for their faith alone and to terrorise the community from which the IRA draws support.

Progress in China, U.S. ties still seen difficult

By David Schlesinger

Reuter

BEIJING — China and the United States last week both hailed the "kiss-and-make-up" visit by Commerce Secretary Ron Brown but also admitted that a full settlement of issues bedevilling relations would take time.

Mr. Brown was the first U.S. cabinet member to visit Beijing since President Bill Clinton severed the link between trade and human rights in May.

That link had prompted increasingly bitter exchanges in the years after China's army crushed pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen square on June 4, 1989.

At an ebullient news conference on Tuesday, an exhilarated Brown said Mr. Clinton's new policy had actually brought victories in both areas — business contracts worth nearly \$5 billion and a new start to bilateral dialogue on human rights.

But as if to emphasise that talk on human rights will not necessarily lead to changes in policy, Beijing police on Wednesday forcibly stopped a leading dissident from leaving home and then took him in for questioning, a relative said.

"I'm afraid I won't be able to return," Wang Dan, one of the student leaders of the Tiananmen Square protests, said by telephone shortly before police took him away.

Non-U.S. diplomats in Beijing tended to dismiss the agreement to resume human rights talks as a public relations gift to reward Mr. Clinton for his decision on trade.

"It will be very difficult to achieve any substance," said one. "Nothing will be given away and talks will be long and laborious."

President Jiang Zemin, in remarks printed on the front pages of major newspapers, told Mr. Brown the two countries had a chance to bring relations into a new era and praised Mr. Clinton for what he called a "wise decision."

But he made clear Beijing was not going to give in easily on disputes that range from the way China treats its dissidents to the huge imbalance in trade.

"As we vary in social systems, ideology, culture and economic development levels, it is no surprise to see our two countries taking different stances on different issues," Mr. Jiang told Mr. Brown.

He urged that the two countries "seek common ground while reserving differences" — Chinese shorthand for ignoring disputes while concentrating on issues that can be agreed on.

Mr. Brown himself, while also hailing a new era in ties, on Wednesday admitted that the problems in the relationship could not be resolved quickly.

"Based on my conversations in Beijing, I know two things. One, it is not going to be easy to achieve all of our goals. Our two nations have many differences and great pride," Mr. Brown said. "But the second thing I saw clearly was that we are now on the right path."

U.S. officials hinted that path could eventually lead to an historic visit by Mr. Clinton, who during his election campaign railed against what he called the dictators in Beijing.

But real difficulties need to be overcome first. China last year ran a \$23 billion trade surplus with the United States, up 25 per cent on the year before and second only to the imbalance with Japan.

U.S. companies complain bitterly Chinese firms freely steal their copyrights and patents and cheat on textile quotas.

Washington, in addition to concerns about human rights, worries about Chinese arms sales.

China, for its part, wants stronger U.S. support for its entry into the world trade body, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. It also wants an end to the handful of remaining sanctions imposed after the 1989 crackdown.

India pressed to scrap anti-terrorist law

The writer is president of Freedom House, a human rights organisation, and co-author of "New Nations Rising: The Fall of the Soviets and the Challenge of Independence." This article is reprinted from The New York Times.

GATT chief says world trade pact in danger

GENEVA (R) — The head of the GATT trade organisation, Peter Sutherland, said Friday a new world trade pact could be endangered unless the big powers moved urgently to ratify the deal.

Speaking to business leaders at a conference in Cernobbio, Italy, he said the United States, the European Union (EU) and Japan had "a primary responsibility" to ensure that the pact, signed in April, could take effect next January.

Any delay, Mr. Sutherland said, would encourage protectionists to regroup and renew pressure on political leaders for policies "whose ruinous effect on prosperity and international stability is amply displayed in recent history."

"The world as a whole must not be kept waiting to realise the economic, social

and political benefits of this great global achievement," he said. Ratification and implementation should be a top international economic and political priority.

Trade officials and diplomats said Mr. Sutherland's remarks, a text of which was released by GATT in Geneva, were particularly directed towards the United States, where there have been growing signs of congressional opposition to quick ratification.

Earlier this week, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole — long seen as a supporter of the pact — suggested that the White House wait until next year to ask Congress to pass a bill implementing the deal in the United States.

Labour and consumer groups, as well as some industrial and farming lobbies

who feel threatened by an accord which slashes tariffs by an average of one third and opens world markets, are calling for changes that could wreck the pact.

Mr. Sutherland said that if the pact was not dealt with in Congress before early October, when the legislature adjourns, there could be a serious risk of a long delay despite support from the Clinton administration.

The consequences, the GATT chief said, "could also be serious for the U.S. economy and for the world as a whole."

The pact was signed by more than 100 countries in Marrakesh, Morocco, in April after seven years of tough negotiations involving, by their conclusion, more than 120 states accounting for ab-

out 95 per cent of world trade.

To administer its vast new system of trading rules — ranging from farm produce through industrial goods to textiles, services and patents — it forms a new World Trade Organisation (WTO), which will absorb the GATT.

GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, was set up in 1948 as a temporary body pending creation of an International Trade Organisation (ITO) — which itself was subsequently sunk by U.S. congressional opposition.

In Marrakesh, ministers including U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor agreed that the WTO should come into effect next Jan. 1. A preparatory committee has been working since then and an implementation confer-

ence is due in early December.

So far, 26 of GATT's 125 members have ratified the deal — said to offer a huge boost to world trade by the year 2002 — but many more are waiting for the big trading powers before they move to follow suit.

The delay in the EU — where Britain, Germany and Greece have ratified nationally — is due to uncertainty over whether the European Commission or individual states take the final legal steps rather than to opposition to the pact.

In Japan, Mr. Sutherland said, "the ratification effort seems well under way but the crucial examination of the Diet (parliament) has still to begin. It is essential that every effort be made to begin this process promptly."

Representatives at World Bank work on Palestinian financing

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Palestinian, Israeli and international delegates wrapped up a two-day meeting here Friday on financing the transfer of power to Palestinians in the occupied territories, agreeing to search for more funds, a World Bank source said.

Between 100 million and 150 million additional dollars will be needed to cover the costs of the new administration on the West Bank and Gaza by the first quarter of 1995, according to estimates

worked out during talks Thursday and Friday.

That sum would be in addition to the some \$57 million already pledged by donor countries. Representatives meeting next week in Paris will take up the question of finding the extra funds.

Norway presided over this week's talks between Israeli and Palestinian representatives and delegations from the United States, the European Union, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Canada.

A bank source said revenues that Israel agreed to

share with the new Palestinian administration on the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank town of Jericho have so far fallen short of estimates and are not sufficient to fund the 9,000-member Palestinian police force and to meet other expenses.

Israel and the Palestinian Authority have agreed to make a joint appeal to donor countries for \$30 million to help cover the new costs.

A donors' meeting will be held in Paris from Sept. 8 to 10.

Kuwait members of parliament take aim at state property policies

Lawmakers draft bill to speed up building process

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti lawmakers, squaring off for a possible tussle with the government, have drafted a bill to speed up building amid soaring demand for homes and give private firms more say in provision of state land for housing.

The deputies, who also want to prevent potentially disastrous property price fluctuations, say their bill will help guard against abuse of public funds and hasten the repatriation of capital that has flown overseas on worries about Iraq.

Assembly speaker Ahmad Al Saadoun said if the problem went unaddressed the property market could witness a crash as bad as a stock market collapse in 1982 that initially wiped \$92 billion off shareholders' books and crippled the economy for a decade.

"The continuation of the unnatural rise in real estate prices... may lead to another economic crisis like the (1982) Manakb crisis," opposition veteran Sheikh Saadoun said last week.

"The average citizen is no longer able to afford suitable housing because of monopolies which fuel the price rise," he added.

All married Kuwaiti men are eligible for state apartments or a plot of state land on which to build with state aid and about 44,000 of them are on waiting lists expected to last years.

The backlog could rise to 65,000 by the end of the century if building plans fail to meet the challenge, the deputies say.

Tight supply of land in a country the size of the U.S. state of New Jersey has led to a steady rise in prices. A 500 square metre plot in a well-to-do area of Kuwait City now costs 200,000 dinars (\$670,000), well beyond the means of most Kuwaitis starting off in life.

Applicants for one of the most popular options for state assistance — a plot of land and an interest free loan of 70,000 (\$234,000) to help cover the cost of the plot and construction — have to wait between 10 and 13 years.

Sheikh Saadoun said the bill would stabilise property prices and provide profitable domestic business opportunities for Kuwaitis who have invested billions of dollars overseas over the years.

Opposition deputies say state dominance in such an

important part of the economy and at such a time of shortage gives wide opportunity for the exercise of political patronage.

The government strongly denies that any of its departments or operations dispenses influence and says all of its economic reforms are intended to strengthen the anemic private sector.

Sheikh Saadoun and four other deputies submitted their bill late last month only days after a government decree authorised Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan to sell state property without resort to competitive bidding.

Parliament is studying what some members have called the dubious terms of the government's sale of land for construction of 16,000 holiday houses at Kheiran south of Kuwait City.

The sale to Pearl of Kuwait Real Estate Company was made without a tender and some deputies say the developer stands to make unusually big profits because the land price was set too low.

The government has denied any collusion with the company in connection with the sale. Parliament, which will meet again in late Octo-

ber after a summer recess, has the right to review, alter or cancel any government decree issued in its absence.

"We support the private sector and privatisation, but this should not become a pretext for exploitation and making illegal profits," said opposition Deputy Abdullah Al Nibari, a vocal opponent of the Kheiran project.

"The bill fulfils two objectives... reducing the waiting period for housing care, and privatisation. But these two will not let us forget to protect public funds," an explanatory note to the deputies' bill says.

The bill says housing prices have soared and demand has grown because of the unavailability of lands due to a de facto monopoly by unnamed property traders.

The bill would require the invitation of tenders for housing projects "so that the process will be public and competitive." Housing units would be distributed on the basis of equality.

"The bill already receives the unlimited support of parliament members and who hope the government will support it too," Sheikh Saadoun said.

Russian central bank may take over ailing banks

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian central bank plans to take temporary control of commercial banks in danger of collapse, in an effort to restore confidence in a financial system shaken by recent scandals.

"An appropriate document is now being circulated to the central bank's regional branches," said Alexander Rychenkov, head of the bank's department responsible for monitoring activities of Russia's mushrooming commercial banks.

Mr. Rychenkov told Reuters Friday that under new regulations the central bank would have the right to send its own administrators for up to six months to any commercial bank which showed signs of imminent financial collapse.

He did not say how many of Russia's 2,200 commercial banks would be affected or when the action would start.

"Of course central bank control may be introduced only after the failure of all other attempts to restore the bank to health by limiting the volume of its operations, blocking further expansion of debt, and banning acceptance of new clients," he said.

Mr. Rychenkov said many bankers, especially in the provinces, were under-qualified to run their businesses effectively.

"In our situation, one can hardly imagine all banks to be healthy," he said.

Russia's emerging and largely unregulated financial markets have been rocked recently by scandals which have shaken people's confidence in the entire system.

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's buoyant economy, already one of the fastest-growing in the industrialised world, is set to accelerate further despite a recent slowdown, analysts have said.

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed in the three months to June 30 to a seasonally adjusted 0.9 per cent and to 4.3 per cent over the year, the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported.

But analysts said the data provided further evidence of Australia's fine balance of robust economic growth and low inflation, and the slowdown from the March quarter's annual figure of 5.0 per cent would be short-lived.

"It appears to me that the majority of market forecasts are underestimating current GDP growth and the capacity of the economy to sustain robust growth into 1995," said Brett Allender, chief economist at Schroders Australia.

Mr. Allender said the annual GDP growth rates had been dragged down recently by poor figures in the September quarter of 1993, which would cease to have an impact in the next official quarterly GDP release.

"I expect the next figures for the September quarter (of 1994) to show growth. In fact is going to lie in the range of one-to-two per cent, lifting the annual rate to above five per cent, perhaps close to six per cent," he pointed out.

Markets could begin to worry about inflation if the economy was bounding along at that rate, Mr. Allender said, adding that he expected the central bank to lift rates further towards the end of this year to rein in future growth.

The Reserve Bank of Australia lifted the official rate by 0.75 percentage points to 5.50 per cent of Aug. 17, but by the end of 1994 "it will be obvious that the first move has had little impact on economic activity," he said.

The latest figures showed a key economic indicator of underlying inflation, the

domestic demand price deflator, rose by 0.9 per cent over the year to June.

Average weekly earnings climbed only 1.0 per cent over the year, while productivity rose 1.7 per cent.

"The economy is growing quite strongly but with no inflationary pressure and it looks as if annual growth could even accelerate," said Grant Bailey, chief economist at Citibank Australia.

Treasurer Ralph Willis said the data confirmed Australia's continued low-inflationary growth, commenting in a statement: "The accounts confirm that inflation remains subdued."

"Low inflation, high productivity and rising investment confirm that Australia is on track for a sustainable low inflation period of strong GDP and employment growth," Mr. Willis said.

Bruce Freeland, senior

economist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia, said he expected growth to continue at four to five per cent in the near term.

"Really this is one of those figures where there is an awful lot of good news in it," he said. "There are risks further down the track of whether we can sustain this growth and what pressure it will place on the current account deficit, but at this stage it is generally good news."

Chris Caton, chief economist at Bankers Trust Australia, said underlying business investment grew by 10.5 per cent in the quarter.

"Over the next year, we can expect continued evolution in the economic expansion, with more of the running being taken by business fixed investment and the contribution from housing dropping away," he forecast.

250 Russian state firms broke — official

MOSCOW (AFP) — Some 250 Russian state-owned factories and firms have been officially classified as insolvent and many more are likely to follow suit, a Russian official has said.

Piotr Karpov, deputy director of the federal department on bankruptcies, told ITAR-TASS news agency that the government was

compiling lists of insolvent state enterprises in preparation for further action.

He said concrete decisions on the future of these enterprises — whether to retain them as state-subsidised entities or sell them to private investors — would be taken in this month.

Government experts have forecast that "a large portion

of enterprises in different branches of the Russian economy are in a state of potential bankruptcy," ITAR-TASS said.

Mr. Karpov said studies now under way would give an objective picture of "who owes who what" and on the financial health of certain sectors of the Russian economy.

He indicated, however, that not all enterprises identified by the government as insolvent would be put up for sale or shut down, and referred to legal proceedings that could give some of them a chance to recover.

Mr. Karpov gave no examples or names of firms declared insolvent by the government.

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THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

"I understand about males being more aggressive, Stanley, but footsie shouldn't be played for points!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KRIPE

SINEA

DRIPEM

EXDOUT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PERKY AWASH OBLGE SEAMAN

Answer: What the golf addict set aside for a rainy day — HIS WORK

Peanuts

Mutt'n'Jeff

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Good day to get away from it all and relax with friends who don't expect you to entertain them. Improve the quality of your life through idealistic concepts. Move your personal goals ahead.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study a new task where productive ideas are concerned and put it in operation as soon as possible. Be alert to new and successful projects.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Listen to what family members have to suggest and go along with needed changes at home. Avoid trouble with those who live under your roof.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have good ideas for greater productivity, so make plans to launch them at the first opportunity. Be precise in your logic.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day to concentrate on financial matters and plan how to gain the greatest benefits. Improve your social life.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are ready to make changes and you should seriously consider the activities you wish to retain in your life to make it successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) An excellent day to study facts and figures so you can advance in your line of endeavours. Think constructively about a new project.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a fine day for enjoying the company of good friends you really like. Be more precise in handling private matters.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be alert to opportunities coming your way, but don't jump into anything too hastily. Strive for increased happiness with your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are many opportunities to advance now, so be aware and seize them. Allow time to engage in your favourite hobby or pastime.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can easily handle obligations now that have been worrying you for some time. Make this a worthwhile day for those you associate with.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Try to cooperate more with family members and increase harmony. Make longrange plans for the days ahead which will be productive for you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You may want to improve your surroundings, so study it well and get good ideas. Show thoughtfulness for those you have contact with.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE Daily Crossword

by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

1 Baby buggy

5 Sweeney's role

10 Nudge

14 — sive

15 Believer in oafs

16 Pinza of opera

17 Run

20 Set go

21 Publications, for short

22 Face shapes

23 Italian lake

24 Sea eagle

26 Run

32 Dungarees

34 School transport

35 Holm oak

37 Ventured

38 Columbus

40 Each

41 Poetic lost

42 Touched ground

43 Run

48 Main part of a world

49 Small — (be leery)

50 County in Iowa

53 On-time actor

54 John — Passos

57 Run

61 Song

62 To an extent

63 Helen position

64 Remain

65 Valley

66 Aardvark

DOWN

1 Stage item

2 Entranced

3 Vicinity

4 Bremen

5 Japanese straw mat

6 Salem's state

7 Small drows

8 God

9 Tokyo

10 Rate

11 Rabbi Ben —

12 Window part

13 Trifle

16 In a frenzy

19 Bodies of water

23 200

24 Other

25 Incursion

26 Mistake

27 — Pines friver in Brazil

28 Out in the open

29 Swedish super size

30 Italian city

31 Having a secret meaning

35 Pal

37 Miami's county

38 Letters on a radio

39 Hawk's transport

41 Preface, briefly

44 — (Faulstich)

45 Strail

46 Bay widows

47 Season

50 Turkish VIPs

51 Fir

52 Inset

53 Let abbr.

54 Disperse chunky

55 Extraordinary thing

56 Machine carline

58 Custom

59 One — time

60 Angry

Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

AMANDA BENTON

ARVIDE BENTON

BRADY BENTON

CHAD BENTON

CHRIS BENTON

DAVID BENTON

DEBBIE BENTON

DIANE BENTON

DOUGLAS BENTON

ELIZABETH BENTON

ERIC BENTON

FRANK BENTON

GARY BENTON

HEIDI BENTON

JAMES BENTON

JANE BENTON

JOHN BENTON

KAREN BENTON

KIM BENTON

LARRY BENTON

LENN BENTON

MARY BENTON

MIKE BENTON

NANCY BENTON

PAUL BENTON

ROBERT BENTON

SARAH BENTON

STEVE BENTON

TIM BENTON

TRACY BENTON

WENDY BENTON

YOUNG BENTON

Business & Finance

Jordan Times

Financial Markets

Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Interest Rates

Exchange Rates

Commodity Prices

Stock Prices

Bond Prices

Real Estate

Insurance

Travel

Automotive

Technology

Healthcare

Energy

Food & Beverage

Textiles

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Telecommunications

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World Bank financing

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PROSCOPE

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Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

IES: Good day to get away from it all and not expect you to entertain them. Improve through idealistic concepts. Move away from 19) Study a new task where products put in operation as soon as possible. Be successful projects.

ay 20) Listen to what family members have needed changes at home. Avoid trouble for your roof.

ay 31) You have good ideas for (or great) as to launch them at the first opportunity.

ay 22 to July 21) This is a good day to set and plan how to gain the greatest social life.

ay 21) You are ready to make changes and order the activities you wish to retain in your life.

September 22) An excellent day to study can advance in your line of endeavour, at a new project.

October 22) This is a fine day for enjoying and you really like. Be more precise in your plans.

November 21) Be alert to opportunities to jump into anything too hastily. Strive for your loved ones.

December 21) There are many ways, so be aware and seize them. Allow yourself a hobby or pastime.

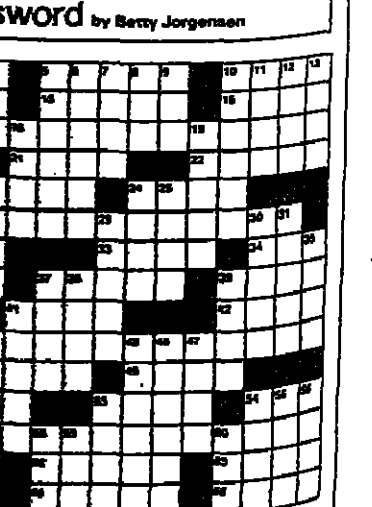
January 20) You can easily handle the work you are doing for some time. Make those you associate with.

February 19) Try to cooperate more and increase harmony. Make long-range plans will be productive for you.

March 20) You may want to improve your self and get good ideas. Show thoughtful contact with.

number: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

WORD by Betty Jorgensen



Yesterday's Puzzle Solution:

Across: 1. JORDAN, 2. AMMAN, 3. JERICO, 4. GAZA, 5. WEST, 6. EAST, 7. NORTH, 8. SOUTH, 9. WEST, 10. EAST, 11. NORTH, 12. SOUTH, 13. WEST, 14. EAST, 15. NORTH, 16. SOUTH, 17. WEST, 18. EAST, 19. NORTH, 20. SOUTH, 21. WEST, 22. EAST, 23. NORTH, 24. SOUTH, 25. WEST, 26. EAST, 27. NORTH, 28. SOUTH, 29. WEST, 30. EAST, 31. NORTH, 32. SOUTH, 33. WEST, 34. EAST, 35. NORTH, 36. SOUTH, 37. WEST, 38. EAST, 39. NORTH, 40. SOUTH, 41. WEST, 42. EAST, 43. NORTH, 44. SOUTH, 45. WEST, 46. EAST, 47. NORTH, 48. SOUTH, 49. WEST, 50. EAST, 51. NORTH, 52. SOUTH, 53. WEST, 54. EAST, 55. NORTH, 56. SOUTH, 57. WEST, 58. EAST, 59. NORTH, 60. SOUTH, 61. WEST, 62. EAST, 63. NORTH, 64. SOUTH, 65. WEST, 66. EAST, 67. NORTH, 68. SOUTH, 69. WEST, 70. EAST, 71. NORTH, 72. SOUTH, 73. WEST, 74. EAST, 75. NORTH, 76. SOUTH, 77. WEST, 78. EAST, 79. NORTH, 80. SOUTH, 81. WEST, 82. EAST, 83. NORTH, 84. SOUTH, 85. WEST, 86. EAST, 87. NORTH, 88. SOUTH, 89. WEST, 90. EAST, 91. NORTH, 92. SOUTH, 93. WEST, 94. EAST, 95. 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Morceli wins overall title at IAAF grand prix final

PARIS (AP) — Showing little effects from a bout of flu, Noureddine Morceli won the overall men's title Saturday at the IAAF Mubil Grand Prix track final with a gritty victory in the 1,500 metres. The Algerian sprinted the last lap under 51 seconds for a winning time of 3 minutes, 40.09 seconds. It was a slow time compared to his world record of 3:28.82 but it was good enough to win \$130,000.

Morceli said Friday he had the flu and didn't know whether he would compete until just before race time. His world record at 3,000 metres in Monaco in August gave him an advantage over the other men and he needed just to win his event without any worry about a top time.

He was near the top of the pack throughout a tactical race, then unleashed his devastating final kick.

He beat Burundi's Venuste Niyongabo, who had a chance to overtake Morceli in the overall standings with a victory.

Dennis Mitchell of the United States handed Linford Christie of Britain his third consecutive defeat in the 100 metres.

Mitchell's time was 10.12

seconds into a slight wind. Christie was second in 10.13. Jon Drummond of the United States was third in 10.18.

Christie, the world and Olympic champion, ran 9.91 at the Commonwealth Games two weeks ago but had been beaten twice since he returned to Europe. Drummond beat him in Rieti, Italy, while Mitchell and Drummond bested him at Berlin.

Mitchell, in a fluorescent green track suit, had a good start, then fought to hold off Christie in the last 50 metres. "I felt him coming in the middle of the race but the way I have been feeling this year when he came up at me at 90 metres I felt I could hold him off," Mitchell said.

"Dennis was two metres up on me at 35. It was quick and Dennis got out quick and I had to play catchup," Christie said. "I thought I won the race. I figure my chest is bigger than his."

Mitchell is now 3-3 against Christie for the season.

"I've been winning a lot of races but there are still two more races to go," Mitchell said. "I will probably race Linford again and I know he'll be ready."

Khalid Skah won a photo-finish in the men's 5,000 over fellow Moroccan Khalid Boulami in 13:14.63. Just one-hundredth of a second separated them, the same margin as in the short's event of the afternoon, the men's

100.

Joyner-Kersey was tied with four other women entering the final but won the overall title through a better performance in complex scoring system.

Heike Drechsler of Germany was one of those who had a shot at the women's title but was just third in the long jump behind Ukraine's Inessa Kravets, who leaped 6.98.

Sonia O'Sullivan of Ireland won the women's 5,000 in 15 minutes, 12.94 second and Svetlana Dimitrova of Bulgaria took the women's 100-metre hurdles in 12.66 seconds but both did not measure up point-wise to Joyner-Kersey.

Torrence also finished second in her race and was out of the overall money.

Merlene Ottey of Jamaica won the women's 100 in 10.82, equalling a personal best. She just edged Gwen Torrence of the U.S. second, in 10.83, also a personal best. Irina Privalova of Russia was a distant third in 11.02.

Marie-Jose Percec of France delighted the home crowd with a victory in the women's 400 metres in 49.77. The best time in the world this year. She is the world, Olympic and European champion.

In the first final of the afternoon, the hammer threw went to world and Olympic champion Andrei Abduvaliyev of Tajikistan with a toss of 81.46 metres.

Former England soccer captain dies

LONDON (R) — Former England captain Billy Wright, the first British player to be capped 100 times, died at his London home Saturday. He was 70.

He had fought a long battle against cancer, said a spokeswoman for his former club side, Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Wright played in 105 international, 70 of them consecutively.

Tom Finney, a contemporary in the national side, said England had "no better or more loyal servant."

"Billy was as solid as a rock. He was also a nice guy."

Wolverhampton owner Jack Hayward, who made Wright a director of the club in 1990, said: "Billy was more than just a brilliant player, captain and tactician — he was a real gentleman in the true meaning of the word. We shall not see his like again."

England manager Terry Venables said Wright was a tremendous role model for younger players.

The England team was built around Wright from the moment he appeared against Scotland at Wembley in 1947.

Wright first played at right half and remained in one or other of the wing half positions until the World Cup match against Switzerland at Bern in 1954 when he was switched to centre half.

He was first chosen as England captain in October 1948 and led his country 90 times, respected as a quiet but powerful influence.

It was an eventful period for the English game, with Wright sharing the lows such as the 1-0 World Cup defeat by the United States at Belo Horizonte in 1950 and the two beatings by the Hungarians in 1953 and 1954 that set new standards for the game.

But there were also some exciting highs, most memorably when England beat Austria 2-2 in Vienna in 1952 with Nat Lofthouse's goal just before the end.

Al Hussein top standings after first week of Jordan Soccer League tourney

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Newly-crowned Federation Shield champions Al Hussein gave their fans more to cheer for when they scored an impressive 4-0 victory over newcomers Al Karmel in the opening week of the 1994 first division championship organised by the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF).

In other matches this week, Al Ahli held titleholders Al Faisali to a 1-1 draw, newcomers Kufroum stunned Al Qadissieh 3-2, Al Wihdat defeated Al Jazireh 1-0, Al Ramtha and Al Arabi drew 1-1, and Shabab Al Hussein and Al Jeel also drew 1-1 in the first match of the prestigious championship whose first round is scheduled to end by mid-November.

At Al Hussein Stadium in Irbid, over 5,000 supporters cheered Al Hussein first match of the season as they launched the competition with an impressive performance that displayed their determination to achieve an advanced standing.

Striker Munib Gharaibeh opened scoring in the 25th minute, and although Al Hussein missed a penalty kick in the first half, the three consecutive goals in the 75th, 88th and 90th

minutes were more than enough to keep lowly Al Karmel concentrating on their defence to avoid more goals.

With this win, Al Hussein topped the standings for now on goal difference.

At Amman Stadium, Al Ahli's Khalil Fatafah upset Al Faisali when he scored the precious equaliser for his team in the 71st minute.

Al Faisali had scored their goal by striker Subhi Suleiman in the 28th minute. Teammates Jamal Abu Abed, Jiryes Tadros and Mohammad Mahadin led a series of scoring chances in the first half.

Al Faisali's fans, whose team is going after their 26th first division title, were undoubtedly extremely upset, especially since they had also lost 2-1 to Al Hussein in the Federation Shield final last week.

Newcomers Kufroum scored the most surprising result of the week when they defeated Al Qadissieh 3-2.

Kufroum's Ihab Qawasmeh stunned his opponents when he opened scoring in the 2nd minute.

Al Qadissieh soon equalised by Tha'er Ibrahim in the 16th minute.

However Kufroum seemed determined to score a win as Qawasmeh scored his second goal 7

minutes later while teammate Islam Diyabnet netted in the third goal in the 45th minute.

Although striker Mustafa Adam, scored a second goal for Al Qadissieh in the 59th minute, Kufroum managed to keep their lead and scored an important first win.

In another match, Al Wihdat could only manage a 1-0 win over Al Jazireh from a header by ace striker Jihad Abdul Mun'em in the 32nd minute.

Meanwhile, Al Ramtha managed to end their match against lowly Al Arabi in a 1-1 draw at Al Hassan Stadium in a match attended by 2,000 fans.

Al Arabi's Ayman Al

Omar scored from a header in the 46th minute.

However Al Ramtha's Badran Al Shaqran and Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib led their team's attacks and succeeded in securing a goal when Al Shaqran was tackled and was awarded a penalty from which Abu Hdeib scored the equaliser in the 57th minute.

Shabab Al Hussein's Ra'ed Al Ja'fari gave his team a 1-0 lead when he scored his team's first ever goal in the first division in their match against Al Jeel.

However the relatively inexperienced Shabab Al Hussein could not hold on to their lead and Al Jeel scored their vital equaliser in the 74th minute.

Standings after 1st week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Hussein	1	1	—	—	4	—	2
Wihdat	1	1	—	—	1	—	2
Kufroum	1	1	—	—	3	2	2
Faisali	1	—	1	—	1	1	1
Ahli	1	—	1	—	1	1	1
Ramtha	1	—	1	—	1	1	1
Arabi	1	—	1	—	1	1	1
Jeel	1	—	1	—	1	1	1
Shabab Al Hussein	1	—	1	—	1	1	1
Qadissieh	1	—	—	1	2	3	—
Jazireh	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Karmel	1	—	—	1	—	4	—

Werder Bremen go top after Dortmund crash in Bundesliga

BONN (AFP) — Werder Bremen finished top of the Bundesliga Saturday after pacers Borussia Dortmund were crushed 4-1 at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Bremen, who were 3-1 winners at Freiburg Friday night, maintained their one-point lead at the top with Ghanaian goal ace Anthony Yeboah starting the rout for Eintracht.

Yeboah struck just before half-time, cancelling out a 34th minute opener from Dortmund's Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat.

Defender Manfred Binz made it 2-1, an own goal by

Thomas France 3-1 and Augustine Okocha, the star Nigerian midfielder, got his name on the scoresheet two minutes from time.

Now second, Borussia are joined on six points by a revitalised Bayern Munich.

Bayern, who have had a fairly miserable start to the season — losing the Super Cup to Bremen, knocked out of the German Cup by a team of amateurs and then thrashed 5-1 by Freiburg, were 3-0 winners at MSV Duisburg Friday.

The victory was achieved without the help of their

high-profile signing from AC Milan, French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, who underwent knee surgery Thursday.

Moenchengladbach's two World Cup stars, Sweden Martin Dahlin and Stefan Effenberg got their team's goals in a 2-0 win over Dynamo Dresden.

Switzerland's Ciriaco Storz scored twice in Kaiserslautern's 3-2 win over VfB Stuttgart, while Jordan Letchikov, whose goal knocked Germany out of the World Cup quarterfinals, added the third in Hamburg's 3-1 win over Karlsruhe.

He was first chosen as England captain in October 1948 and led his country 90 times, respected as a quiet but powerful influence.

It was an eventful period for the English game, with Wright sharing the lows such as the 1-0 World Cup defeat by the United States at Belo Horizonte in 1950 and the two beatings by the Hungarians in 1953 and 1954 that set new standards for the game.

But there were also some exciting highs, most memorably when England beat Austria 2-2 in Vienna in 1952 with Nat Lofthouse's goal just before the end.

MILAN, Italy (AP) — An American defender and a Japanese forward are the novelties this season, or more correctly the result of an Italian Soccer League dealing with unprecedented financial austerity and the unwanted attention of investigating judges.

For some observers, the arrival of Alexi Lalas and Kazuyoshi (Kazu) Miura, on cheap transfer fees from developing soccer nations such as the United States and Japan, is a clear indication of the Italian league's troubles.

For the first time in post-war Italy, first-division teams were forced to severely curtail their purchases for new players.

In the wake of a recession which affected commercial sponsors and club owners — mostly businessmen — the acquisition of 17 foreign newcomers cost 50 billion lire (\$31.2 million), 50 per cent less than last year.

At the same time, 30 highly paid non-Italians, including stars such as Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin, Argentine Claudio Caniggia and German Andreas Moeller, were sold abroad to ease the financial strain on some Italian clubs that were close to bankruptcy.

Two Serie B — or second-division — teams have been banished to the third division because of their economic problems while first-division Napoli had to provide special financial guarantees in order

to be allowed to play when the season kicks off Sunday.

The 18 teams play a 34-round schedule that will continue until May 28. This year's season will include a change in the standings, with three points awarded for a victory, one for a draw and none for a loss — the same method as the recently completed World Cup and already in use in England and France.

Sunday's opening round has defending champion AC Milan at home in San Siro Stadium against Genoa; Sampdoria facing Padova at the neutral field of Bologna; Cremonese at Parma; Juventus at Brescia; Lazio at Bari; Cagliari at Fiorentina; Reggina at Napoli; Foggia at Roma; and Torino hosting Inter.

Meanwhile, some Milan judges began investigating alleged fiscal irregularities and illegal payments behind some of the multi-million-dollar transfers from the last two years.

AC Milan officials were questioned about the 1993 transfer of Gianluigi Lentini from Torino — a record deal estimated at 40 billion lire (\$25 million).

Top executives of Torino have been investigated for several alleged administrative misdeeds and presidents of Cagliari and Foggia were briefly detained amidst kick-back scandals.

"Soccer is no longer a happy island in the sea of Italy's

depressed economy," says Giorgio Tosatti, a leading Italian soccer commentator.

Italian and European champion AC Milan, which is owned by media-tycoon-turned-premier Silvio Berlusconi, was not immune from the austerity measures, selling more players than it bought.

Milan, trying for a rare fourth consecutive league title and consecutive European Champions Cup crowns, signed Rudi Gullit, Giovanni Stroppa and Gianluca Sordo while purging itself of Papin, Brian Laudrup, Florin Radu and Fernando de Napoli.

Gullit, who returns to Milan following one year with Sampdoria, will join Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic, French midfielder Marcel Desailly and Croatian Zvonimir Boban.

Dutch striker Marco van Basten, still sidelined with a recurring ankle injury, may miss his second consecutive season from Milan.

Lalas, the long-haired, goated defender of the U.S. national team, will be the first-ever American to play in Italy, with underdog Padova.

He cost the Italian club 400 million lire (\$250,000), compared with the 10 billion lire (\$62 million) each Portuguese midfielders Paulo Sousa and Rui Costa cost Juventus of Turin and Fiorentina.

Miura did not cost Genoa a single lira — arriving through a complex deal involving the

commercial sponsors of the Italian team and Miura's former Japanese club, Verdy Kawasaki.

Despite the uncertain economic outlook, the Italian major league still is likely to produce the world's best soccer, attract the largest crowds and get the biggest television audiences in Europe.

Italy's loss to Brazil in the World Cup final in a penalty shootout was a bitter disappointment for Italian fans, but it boosted the worldwide popularity of such stars as Roberto Baggio, Giuseppe Signori, Franco Baresi, Paolo Maldini and Dino Baggio.

Roberto Baggio, the pony-tailed striker whose decisive goals lifted Italy past Nigeria in the second round of the World Cup, Spain the quarters and Bulgaria in the semis, will try to lead Juventus to its first league title in nine years.

The Turin team, owned by the Agnelli family of auto tycoons, has won the Italian league a record 22 times.

Sousa and fellow newcomer Didier Deschamps will join Baggio and Juventus regular Gianluca Viali in an attempt to end the drought.

Signori, who led the Italian league in scoring last season with 23 goals, has extended his contract with Lazio through 1997.

British midfielder Paul Gascoigne, who broke his right leg last season, is still on Lazio's payroll, but his return to competitive play is uncertain.

Maradona says he is as good as dead



Diego Maradona

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Shrouded in black and with his voice barely more than a whisper, Diego Maradona pronounced himself as good as dead Friday and said he could not envisage a return to soccer.

Maradona, 33, was speaking in public for the first time since receiving a 15-month ban from the world soccer body FIFA Aug. 24 for failing a doping test.

"Me, they killed me. I'm completely dead, both as a man and a player," the fallen superstar told a news conference. "I don't think I'll be doing any soccer, it doesn't become me."

The former Argentina captain, who tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs in June in the biggest scandal in World Cup history, described the suspension as unreasonable.

"It's totally unfair. There are no words to express what they did to me," he said. "I had said (when first suspended during the World Cup) that they'd cut my legs away from me — I think they've now cut my entire body away."

He said defiantly he would

maintain a future in soccer management.

Maradona, serving his second 15-month ban in little more than three years following a brush with cocaine, cut a sorry sight as he explained what soccer meant to him.

"It was wonderful," he said. "I used to play in the morning and in the afternoon. Even when I went to bed with my wife I was training."

Maradona had refused to speak to the press since FIFA announced the suspension except for brief comments shouted that day to a television crew, in which he said he felt FIFA had been too harsh on him.

Clean-shaven unlike on other occasions when he sported several days' growth, Maradona wore black.

As if he had chosen to announce his soccer death at the site of his first love, Maradona, who led Argentina to World Cup glory in 1986, picked Boca Juniors Club as venue for the news conference.

"I don't feel up to another challenge like the last World Cup," he muttered, choking back the tears.

Annual Forte Grand diplomats tennis tournament Opens Sept. 9

The Forte Grand Annual Tennis Tournament for Diplomats and Foreign Players will start Friday, September 9 on the hotel tennis courts.

Sponsored by TNT Worldwide Express, the five-event tournament will be held throughout the week.

With the finest international players in Amman, the tournament promises to be the best tennis event of the year with the semi-finals and finals being played Thursday and Friday Sept. 15 and 16 respectively.



GOLF TOURNEY: The South Korean Embassy in Amman Friday hosted an amateur golf tournament at the Bisharat Golf Club. It was for the second time that the embassy hosted a golf tournament at the club. More than 50 players from various circles in Amman, including diplomats as well as Jordanian and Korean businessmen, participated in the game. Major Korean companies in Amman (Hanbo, Hyundai, Samsung, Daewoo, Lucky-Gold Star, etc.) contributed to the event by donating their products (television sets, audio set etc.) as prizes for the winners of the tournament. During the lunch following the golf tournament, South Korean Ambassador Jung-II Oh, who assumed his duty last March, presided over the awarding ceremony and said he hoped this kind of sporting event would promote mutual understanding and friendship among sport lovers in Amman. Photo shows Mr. Oh (middle) awarding the grand prize to the winner of the tournament, D. Keegan (right).

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Sports

Fu retains t Swimming C Russia, Greece

When the world title was defended by the Russian swimmer, she experienced the defending her title. She was the only swimmer to have won the title in the 100m freestyle. She was also the only swimmer to have won the title in the 200m freestyle. She was also the only swimmer to have won the title in the 400m freestyle. She was also the only swimmer to have won the title in the 800m freestyle. She was also the only swimmer to have won the title in the 1600m freestyle. She was also the only swimmer to have won the title in the 3200m freestyle. She was also the only swimmer to have won the title in the 6400m freestyle. She was also the only swimmer to have won the title in the 12800m freestyle. She was also the only swimmer to have won the title in the 25600m freestyle. She was also the only swimmer to have won the title in the 51200m freestyle. She was also the only swimmer to have won the title in the 102400m freestyle. 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NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan scholars issue fatwa against conference

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Protesters from an Islamic university in Khartoum issued a fatwa Saturday against the U.N. World Population Conference in Cairo, calling on all Muslims to boycott and "lead a war" against the event. Organisers said more than 4,000 students and lecturers from the Holy Koran and Islamic Science University marched Saturday on the city's U.N. office, where the fatwa — or religious decree — declaring the conference and its draft recommendations as counter to Islam was issued to U.N. representatives. The protesters, including women students, raised copies of the Holy Koran and chanted anti-American and anti-United Nations slogans. They handed two memoranda to U.N. envoy Adil Saghai, declaring that U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali had abandoned the cause of developing countries and was "helping to eliminate" the human race by backing the conference's proposals for stemming world population growth.

OIC urges members to attend conference

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AFP) — The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Saturday urged member states to attend the U.N. World Population Conference in Cairo to block any un-Islamic resolutions. Hamid Algalib, OIC secretary general, said in a statement here that "member states must be present at the conference and make Islamic positions count during debates." "They must block the adoption of any document which goes against Islamic principles," he added. He also condemned the conference's draft resolutions which have already drawn fire from Muslim leaders and the Vatican. The draft action plan "promotes population control by abortion and free access to modern contraception," he charged. "Population growth does not always constitute an obstacle to development everywhere," he said. "Under-population is even the main handicap to development in some cases." Four out of the 48 OIC members — Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Sudan — have announced they will boycott the Cairo conference, which opens on Monday and lasts until September 13.

Iraq joins boycott

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraq said Saturday it would boycott the U.N. World Population Conference because its draft action plan contradicted Baghdad's policy. An Iraqi foreign ministry spokesman told the official agency INA that the conference's aims contradicted Iraq's policies and social and development programmes. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said Baghdad had taken the decision after it "examined the document relating to the conference and found contradicting social, political and economic positions."

U.N. chief in Cairo for conference

CAIRO (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali arrived in Cairo on Saturday for the U.N. conference on population and development, saying peace and development were inextricable. "There is no peace without development and we cannot achieve development without peace," he told reporters at Cairo airport. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, at the airport to meet Mr. Boutros Ghali, told reporters earlier that states boycotting the conference had made a big mistake. "They should have taken part and worked to oppose any recommendations which contradict their traditions," he said.

Jane Fonda arrives in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — American actress Jane Fonda arrived Saturday for the U.N. conference and said Egypt was a wise choice for the meeting since it illustrates the problems of overpopulation. Cairo is a city of 14 million and Egypt's total population is 58 million. Ms. Fonda will visit the Giza pyramids and ancient temples at Luxor in southern Egypt during her stay, as well as take part in the nine-day conference opening Monday.

'Kuwait gets new tanks, vehicles'

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait will take delivery of its first batch of American Abrams M1-A2 tanks and British Warrior armoured vehicles by mid-1995, an army officer was reported as saying on Saturday. Brigadier Saleem Al Masoud, commander of Kuwaiti land forces, gave no numbers in a brief interview to the Kuwait news agency but added the M1-A2 would be able to protect itself against chemical weapons. Kuwait signed agreements for the purchase of 218 of the tanks made by General Dynamics for about \$2.0 billion and 254 Warriors made by GKN for about \$1.0 billion after a U.S.-led alliance ended Iraq's occupation in the 1991 Gulf war. The weapons are expected to be delivered in stages over the remainder of the decade.

Palestinian wounded by soldiers in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AFP) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a Palestinian during a demonstration in the south of the Gaza Strip, Palestinians said Saturday. The man, in his 50s, was wounded when soldiers opened fire Friday on stone-throwing demonstrators close to the Neve Dekalim settlement and the Khan Yunes refugee camp. Palestinian police did not intervene, the sources added. Under the May 4 autonomy accord the Israeli army remained responsible for security around Jewish settlements on the strip.

France holds four more after Morocco killings

PARIS (R) — French police on Saturday detained four more people suspected of links to gunmen who killed two Spanish tourists in Morocco last month, police sources said. The four join 13 others held in France in a probe of possible accomplices of three Frenchmen of Algerian origin and a Moroccan living in France who were arrested in Morocco after the Aug. 4 shooting and robbery in a Marrakesh hotel. French police arrested 27 people in a series of raids on Thursday but have released 14 of them. The shooting has soured relations between Morocco and Algeria — Morocco blamed the attack on a mainly Algerian gang. Algeria in turn closed its border with Morocco.

Indonesian killed in nuclear laboratory explosion

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A nuclear laboratory at an Indonesian science centre has exploded, leaving one worker dead and injuring a janitor, the director-general of the state atomic energy agency said Saturday. Djali Ahimsa said the laboratory blast Wednesday at the Centre for Science and Technology Development caused no radiation leaks and occurred in an area for non-radioactive materials. The atomic agency manages the nuclear laboratory in West Java province, 40 kilometres west of Jakarta, along with a 30-megawatt reactor provided by Siemens A.G. of Germany. Mr. Ahimsa said the agency is investigating the cause of the explosion. Police have sealed off the nuclear centre and military officers cordoned off the whole area, he said. The agency recently announced it would build a 10-megawatt isotope-producing reactor in the area of the accident. The Indonesian Environmental Forum, known as Sami Adwan, called on the government to investigate the extent of the damage and determine whether the blast caused radiation leaks. "If there are such leaks, the government should publicly announce it. Do not try to cover up the case, because the public has the right to know," said Emmy Hafidz, a Walhi spokesperson.

FIS offers truce

PARIS (R) — Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) is offering the government the possibility of a truce for the first time as part of efforts to resolve political violence, the FIS leadership in exile said on Saturday. It said jailed FIS leader Abassi Madani had recently written to Algerian President Liamine Zeroual adding the chance of a truce to strict conditions already laid down by the FIS before any talks could start.

A spokesman for Rabah Kebir, the FIS leader in exile in Germany, said it was the first time the FIS had offered the possibility of a truce. The French daily Liberation described the offer in the letter as a major concession by the FIS.

Conditions already laid down by the FIS before any talks can start include: the release of all political prisoners, a return to the rule of law and the prospect of FIS political leaders being able to meet freely with leaders of their militia wings.

More than 4,000 people have been killed in civil unrest following the government's cancellation of 1992 elections that the FIS was poised to win.

Mr. Zeroual resumed talks with legal opposition parties last month and asked them to contact jailed FIS leaders to seek their help in ending the political violence.

The talks follow a series started by Mr. Zeroual's predecessors in late 1992, all of which failed to resolve the North African country's conflict, mainly between security forces and Muslim militants trying to overthrow the army-backed government.

Meanwhile four gunmen shot and killed an Algerian magistrate in the western town of Chlef, Algeria's APS news agency reported Saturday quoting security officials. Mohamed Khellaf was killed by the four assailants on Friday night near his home in the town 160 kilometres southwest of Algiers, APS said.

About 20 magistrates and lawyers have been killed since May 1993 by suspected Muslim militants in Algeria. Twenty-six militants, sentenced to death by military or special courts, were executed early last year.

In Tripoli on Friday the leaders of Libya and Sudan, on the sidelines of Libyan anniversary celebrations, have promised Mr. Zeroual they will do nothing to aid his Muslim militants.

Algerian officials have accused both countries of aiding the fundamentalists.

Mr. Zeroual and Sudan's General Omar Hassan Al Bashir were among the few heads of state to attend Thursday's celebration of the 25th anniversary of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's revolution.

Mr. Zeroual brought his interior minister and senior security officials with him to Tripoli and used the visit to raise the Algerian crisis with both Col. Qadhafi and Gen. Bashir.

"After a joint review of the Algerian accusations, it appeared that most of them are baseless," Gen. Bashir told reporters.

"We have agreed to maintain contacts to make sure that no actions are carried out threatening the security of the two countries."

Vatican to establish ties with Palestinians — Pope

VATICAN CITY (Agencies) — Pope John Paul II said Saturday that the Vatican was currently preparing to establish diplomatic relations with "the representatives of the Palestinian people."

The Pope, speaking to Catholic bishops from the Middle East, said Vatican officials were "currently preparing the opening of official relations with the representatives of the Palestinian people."

He said he hoped the establishment of official ties would "create a more fertile dialogue for all parties, and also open up for the Roman Catholic communities of the Middle East the prospect of a peaceful future."

Of the Middle East peace process he noted that "the journey to be travelled is still long," but drew encouragement from the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Vatican on the one hand and Israel and Jordan on the other.

The PLO on Saturday hailed Morocco's decision to establish liaison offices in Tel Aviv and Palestinian-controlled Gaza and urged other states to follow.

"The decision of the kingdom of Morocco to open a liaison office in Gaza side-by-side with a similar one in Tel Aviv represents a form of support for the Palestinian national authority and a recognition of the national entity which is the nucleus of an independent Palestinian state," a PLO statement said.

"The Palestine Liberation Organisation... calls on other states worldwide to follow the Moroccan example and recognise the Palestinian National Authority because this recognition is the proper way to reinforce the peace process," it added.

The statement signed by the PLO's chief spokesman on Arab and foreign affairs, Mahmoud Abbas, was issued a day after both Morocco and Israel announced their mutual decision to establish low-level ties.

In Damascus two radical Palestinian guerrilla groups Saturday bitterly criticised Morocco for establishing diplomatic relations with Israel.

from Saudi Arabia arrived three hours later.

The strike by the union representing MEA's 300 pilots and flight engineers grounded at least 10 MEA planes scheduled to fly to Europe, the Gulf and North Africa. MEA has 16 operational planes.

However, one MEA Boeing 747 took off for Paris and another for the Gulf Friday evening after MEA persuaded some pilots to cross the picket line.

Negotiations to resolve the dispute began Friday, but were suspended until Monday.

MEAs jumbo jet took off for London with 400 passengers at 8:25 a.m. (0505 GMT) and an MEA airliner

MEA crew end strike

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Middle East Airlines, Lebanon's flag carrier, resumed normal flights Saturday after cockpit crews ended a 24-hour warning strike that stranded thousands of travellers at Beirut international airport, airport officials said.

The strike, called Friday to demand a pay raise, was to end at midday Saturday (0900 GMT), but MEA flights resumed several hours before then.

An MEA jumbo jet took off for London with 400 passengers at 8:25 a.m. (0505 GMT) and an MEA airliner

from Saudi Arabia arrived three hours later.

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Miss Paraguay Joanyne Feyrat is awarded the International beauty pageant Saturday at Ise city, western Japan. The final competition will be held here 04 August (AFP photo)

4 killed in Aden after saints' tombs destroyed

SANAA (R) — Four people were killed in fighting between Muslim zealots and security forces in Aden on Saturday and troops sealed off the approaches to the southern Yemeni port city, residents contacted from Sanaa said.

The clashes came after armed Muslim zealots believed to be linked to the purist Wahhabi sect demolished the tombs of three Muslim saints in the city on Friday, sparking a 30-minute gunfight with police, the residents told Reuters by telephone.

Security police and troops on Saturday attacked the zealots who had taken up positions on top of buildings in various parts of the city and tried to take over the police station in its commercial centre, Crater, the residents said.

Bursts of machinegun fire and explosions of rocket-propelled grenades and Bazooka rockets could still

be heard in different parts of the city on Saturday afternoon, the residents said.

At least four people, two of the zealots and two from the security forces, were killed, they said. Officials in Aden declined all comment.

All the land approaches to the port city were sealed off at noon local time (0900 GMT) on Saturday, apparently to stop reinforcements reaching the zealots from the neighbouring provinces of Lahj and Abyan, the residents said.

Groups of bearded young men armed with automatic weapons and bombs used bulldozers to demolish domes covering the tombs of three Muslim saints in the Crater and Sheikh Othman suburbs of Aden at dawn on Friday, the residents said.

In many Muslim countries saints are buried in mosques with domes over their tombs. But some Muslim sects, such as the puritanical Wahhabis, strongly oppose the existence

of tombs inside mosques which they see as a form of idol worship.

When asked by police to disperse, the men took up positions on top of buildings. A 30-minute gunbattle followed but it was not clear if there were any injuries or arrests.

Residents also said that a small commercial aircraft belonging to the Swiss charter firm Zemex was blown up on Friday morning. No more details were available.

Large numbers of weapons remain in private hands in Yemen and the number of weapons in circulation has increased since the country's two-month civil war which ended on July 7.

Aden was besieged and captured by Yemeni government forces during the war against southern separatists led by leaders of South Yemen's former ruling group, the Yemen Socialist Party.

Pope's Sarajevo visit in doubt

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs threw Pope John Paul's planned pilgrimage to Sarajevo into doubt on Saturday by refusing to guarantee his plane would not be shot at.

Radovan Karadzic, president of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb Republic, told a papal envoy he feared Muslims might attack the 74-year-old pontiff and blame the Serbs.

Privately the leadership has told the Vatican the Pope's presence in Bosnia is "highly undesirable" because the Orthodox Serbs believe the Vatican has been biased

against them during the break-up of Yugoslavia.

Papal nuncio Monsignor Francesco Monterisi spent two hours with Mr. Karadzic at his Pale headquarters near Sarajevo trying to persuade the Serbs to drop their opposition.

He left saying only that "it was a very interesting meeting with the president."

Bosnian Serb Foreign Minister Aleksa Buha said: "The Serbs informed the envoy they could not take responsibility for possible incidents from the Muslim side. The visit by the holy father is still in the air."

The Pope is due to arrive in mainly Muslim Sarajevo on Thursday for what the Vatican has known since the outset will be the most dangerous visit of his pontificate.

Sarajevo airport, where he will land and take off, is surrounded by anti-aircraft guns of both sides and has been closed frequently since July by firing on U.N. relief aircraft.

A simple refusal by Mr. Karadzic to promise he will not be harmed is likely to be sufficient to block his pilgrimage to the city where 10,000 people have been killed in 29 months of Serb siege.

COLUMN

Cruise cancelled on mystery illness ship

LOS ANGELES (R) — A Labour Day weekend cruise aboard a luxury liner was abruptly cancelled Friday following the outbreak of a mystery intestinal illness that felled more than 400 passengers and crew and may have caused the death of one man. A spokesman for the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines said the company had decided to cancel the three-day cruise aboard Viking Princess after being told by health officials that the illness was caused by a virus.

Taiwan jails teacher for boy's death

TAIPEI (R) — A Taiwan nursery school teacher has been sentenced to seven and a half years in prison after a four-year-old boy suffocated when the teacher locked him in a school car, a court spokesman said on Saturday. Pan Shiu-Ling, 18, a teacher at a nursery school in the southern county of Pingtung, locked Feng Wei-Jieh, in a school car last April for six hours as punishment after the four-year-old refused to apologize for quarrelling with other students. Feng was found dead in the car six hours later. Feng's parents told local newspapers they would appeal because the sentence for the teacher was too light.

Poisoned arrows latest in Khmer Rouge arsenal

BANGKOK (AFP) — Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas said Saturday they had added poisoned arrows to their arsenal of weapons. In a broadcast monitored in Thailand, Khmer Rouge radio gave a long list of villages where bows and poison-tipped arrows were being manufactured for use against government troops. The radio also said new traps had been laid for government troops around Khmer Rouge-held villages consisting of camouflaged ditches filled with bamboo spikes shaved to a sharp point.

Singaporean sentenced to death for drug trafficking

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Singaporean Tan Yew Lee has been sentenced to death by hanging for drug trafficking, a High Court official said Saturday. Tan, 35, was found guilty of possession of 13 packets of heroin, weighing a total of 1.4 kilograms, late last year. His sentence was handed down Friday. Tan has an automatic appeal against the death sentence which is mandatory for drug trafficking. An individual caught with 15 grammes or more of heroin is deemed to be a drug trafficker. Since the introduction of the mandatory death sentence in 1975, when the drug laws were amended, 76 people have been hanged, about half of them foreigners. About another 50 people are either awaiting trial for drug trafficking, or appealing against death sentences.

New San Francisco faultline discovered

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AFP) — Scientists have discovered a deep faultline in the earth's crust linking the two known major faultlines along the west coast of the United States, the magazine Science reported in its latest issue Friday. The 65-kilometre faultline, running to a depth of 15 kilometres between San Jose and Vallejo, links the San Andreas and Hayward faultlines and could be the trigger for periodic earthquakes in the San Francisco bay area, the magazine said. So far unnamed, the fault is too deep to cause quakes itself but could pump energy to pass from one of the major faultlines to the other and thereby cause an earthquake. An official of the U.S. Geological Survey, Thomas Brocher, said the discovery would not allow it to predict earthquakes with perfect accuracy but would improve its detection service.

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